



# THE ON GUARD

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## Training on the horizon

Indiana National Guard Soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry make their way into a desert training area in late March for walk-throughs of convoy security training missions near Forward Operating Base Sword, Kuwait. The company is part of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team training on the Iraq border before deploying to support counterinsurgency operations in Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

## Maryland Guard's rapid reaction force prepares for Preakness, other situations

By Staff Sgt. Kristofer Baumgartner  
Maryland National Guard

REISTERSTOWN, Maryland – The Maryland National Guard conducted non-lethal weapons training in April at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation here to prepare for a security assistance mission at the Preakness Stakes thoroughbred horse race.

Instructors from the 70th Regiment conducted a five-day Non-Lethal Individual Weapons Operators Course (NIWOC) for members of Maryland's National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) at the new Warrior Training Center at Camp Fretterd. Training focused on the rules of force and crowd control tactics including the use of non-lethal weapons such as the TASER X26 and Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray).

Due to the state's proximity to Washington D.C. and major ports, Guard officials said that they are taking steps to increase NGRF preparedness through this type of training.

"[NIWOC] is the first state-level, non-lethal operators course of its kind in the National Guard," said Maj. Amy Bennett, Warrior Training Center officer-in-charge.

The NGRF will apply its new knowledge May 17 as it supports the high profile Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. The Preakness is the second jewel in the Triple Crown of thoroughbred racing traditionally held

the third Saturday in May. A record crowd of 121,263 attended the race in 2007, becoming the largest crowd to see a sporting event in Maryland history.

As in years past, the Maryland Guard will provide additional security supporting local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

"The National Guard is in a unique role to respond to state and federal needs," said Lt. Col. Adam Flasch, commander of the NGRF. "Regardless of our status, the non-lethal weapons training will provide additional options to deal with tense situations.

"The skills my Soldiers learned during this training will ensure that our citizens can rely on the National Guard to respond effectively to any emergency," he added.

Each state and territory has a National Guard Reaction Force capable of responding in support of state and local requests. In Maryland, the assignment rotates annually among Army Guard battalions.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristofer Baumgartner

Sgt. 1st Class Antivone Young takes down a simulated rioter while fighting the effects of pepper spray.

## Remembering the fallen

## Georgia Soldier's memory lives on at Iraqi school, village

By Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
101st Airborne Division

PATROL BASE YUSIFIYAH, Iraq – Students and teachers had looks of joy—and bewilderment—as Soldiers handed out school supplies and toys at the Mullah Fayad School in Yusifiyah, Iraq, March 27.

Children grinned ear-to-ear as they looked over the treasure. When teachers asked who had sent the truckload of goods, they were surprised by the answer: Everything had been donated in the name of Sgt. Michael Stokely, a Georgia National Guard Soldier who was killed by a roadside bomb Aug. 16, 2005, in Mullah Fayad.

Stokely, from Sharpsburg, Ga., served with Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade. After his death, his father Robert Stokely began the Mike Stokely Foundation.

The organization put together a shipment of school supplies for children in the communities where Stokely worked. It took an Army five-ton truck to deliver them to the school.

Capt. Michael Starz, commander of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, coordinated with Stokely's father to ensure the donations reached the most destitute people in Mullah Fayad.

The unit distributed the school supplies along with a sizable donation from Sgt. Nathan Barnes' family and community. Barnes, who also died while serving in the area, served with the 10th Mountain Division.

"[Stokely's] dad is just a tremendous individual. He knew how much his son loved the children in the area that he worked with because his son always sent home pictures of him with kids," Starz said. "He thought a lasting tribute to his son would be to do something for the children of the area. That's just remarkable."

MEMORY continued on:  
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Photo by Alden Williams

Sgt. Michael Stokely a few days before he was killed by an IED in Iraq in August 2005.



Colorado's last Vietnam MIA laid to rest: Page 14



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E-mail your stories by the first day of each month for possible inclusion in next month's issue. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (300 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

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# Memorial Day: Guard's fallen live on

Staff Sgt. Jesse Ault is the newest entry on a list of names that, truth to be told, we take no pleasure in publishing. The Virginia Soldier's name has been added to the list of Army and Air National Guard men and women who have died during the past six years while engaged in the Global War on Terrorism.

This is the second straight May that Master Sgt. Greg Rudl, The On Guard editor, has devoted our center spread, pages 8 and 9, to a moving Memorial Day tribute to the National Guard's fallen.

It is, on one hand, certainly appropriate to begin what I call our patriotic season, which runs through the Fourth of July, by remembering those in the National Guard who have died in uniform while serving our country. On the other hand, it is one of the saddest things that we do each year.

Jesse Ault's story is among the most poignant because he died April 9 in Iraq where he was serving in place of his wife Betsy, a sergeant in the Virginia Army Guard. Ault, 28, had already served one tour in Iraq as a Guard Soldier with Betsy beginning in 2004 before they were married. He had gotten out and then reenlisted when Betsy's unit was alerted for Operation Iraqi Freedom duty early last year.

"Jesse loved our family so much and saw how important it was for me to stay with our sons. He joined the National Guard again to take my place on the deployment," Betsy related in a "very personal" statement at the Pulaski Armory two days after her husband died. He was the victim of an improvised explosive device that struck his vehicle during convoy operations south of Baghdad, the Virginia Guard announced. He was a motor transport operator assigned to E Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion based in Roanoke.

Betsy's observation that "Jesse was a loving and dedicated father and husband and a brave and loyal Soldier" is how many servicemembers who have died on battle-grounds in this country and around the world will be remembered during the last Monday in May.

It will be the 141st Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, thanks to General Order No. 11 signed by Gen. John A. Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in May 1868 to honor the Civil War's dead. It was first observed on May 30 that year when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. This most unusual of American holidays, which does not commemorate a specific person or event, now honors every-



**By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell**  
Senior Editor

one who has died in our nation's service.

There are 527 names on this year's list of National Guard GWOT casualties. Col. Canfield Boone and Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Ruth, both also from Virginia, were among the first. They were killed Sept. 11, 2001, at the Pentagon. New York 1st Lt. Gerard Baptiste, Sgt. Larry Bowman and Spc. Roshan (Sean) Singh also died that day in New York. Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Romero of Colorado was the first of 400 to be killed in action, in Afghanistan on April 15, 2002. The list includes the first Guard woman to ever be killed in combat, Wisconsin Spc. Michelle Witmer, and the names of the 10 Army Guard Soldiers whose helicopter was shot down in Iraq on Jan. 20, 2007.

Fifty-three of our 54 states and territories are listed because they were the homes of the units that have lost National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. There are men and women of every pay grade except chief warrant officer 5 and general officers. The names – Adams, Johnson, Wong, Fernandez, Gelineau, Grijalva, Uvanni, Ali, Obaji, Kleinwachter and Weisenburg – are as diverse as America itself.

New York Spc. Segun Akintade, who immigrated to the U.S. from

Nigeria, became a U.S. citizen in 2003 before going to Iraq where he died on Oct. 28, 2004, said Tech. Sgt. Mike Smith of New York, a member of The On Guard staff. Smith recalled one other ironic detail. Akintade began Basic Combat Training on Sept. 11, 2001. Now he's buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

I suppose you could argue that ours is a list of too many sad stories and too many lives unfulfilled. But it's important to remember with lists, speeches, prayers and parades those who have sacrificed everything in the name of our cherished freedoms.

Some signed up because they believed it was the right thing to do. Some were drafted for such conflicts as World War II and Korea and Vietnam. Some happened to be in uniform when they were needed. At least one joined again so his wife could stay home.

It's important to take the time on Memorial Day, or that holiday weekend, to place flowers and flags beside their headstones at Arlington and at state veterans' cemeteries and on family plots across the land and to touch the names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It's important to say "Thank you."

Some are remembered in other ways. A foundation named for Georgia Army Guard Sgt. Michael Stokely, who was killed in Iraq by a roadside bomb Aug. 16, 2005, is the subject of one of our page 1 stories this month. "His footprints are bigger than his boots, and his legacy will ensure that others will go to college and a future is well preserved for a better America," states Stokely's father, Robert, on the foundation's Web site, www.mikestokely.com. The foundation, which is managed by the family, has raised about \$55,000, Robert Stokely explained, and the money has funded college scholarships, free books for underprivileged

children, and other educational needs.

"You know, if Mike Stokely had made it home alive, we would have gone on to live ordinary lives without so much as a second thought [about] how others might go to college," Stokely has observed. "[The enemy] would have been better off to have left him, and us, alone. ... They made us have a reason to stay in the fight and go on."

It's hard to imagine that any of the fallen will be remembered with more love this Memorial Day than Staff Sgt. Jesse Ault who grew up in West Virginia. Betsy Ault has already seen to that. She, and therefore we, will remember Jesse as a man "who loved all things [about] the University of West Virginia and [NASCAR star] Jeff Gordon."

"He cheered for the Denver Broncos and the Atlanta Braves. He liked fishing and golf and loved to ride sleds down the hill with Nathan," Betsy eulogized in April. Nathan is Betsy's older son.

Jesse and Betsy were married after they returned from Iraq. Then they had a son, Adam. Then Jesse went to war again so Betsy would not have to.

"The day he landed in Kuwait, I found out we were pregnant," Betsy related. "He was allowed emergency leave to come home to see the birth of our daughter Rachel. She is 4 months old. ... Even when he was home for the birth of his daughter, he worried that he wasn't there to take care of his guys in Iraq."

Death has a way of giving its victims a quality that is larger than life. I believe that is especially true for those killed in combat. Even though Rachel Ault will not personally remember her father, every Memorial Day she will know him as a good man who went back to war in her mother's place. That is a good way to be remembered.

## Offline

Composite Photo Illustration by:  
**SSG. W Michael Houk**





# Earthquakes, terrorists have Guard training hard in 3 states

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Several thousand National Guard troops were preparing to participate in major homeland security training exercises across the country in late April and early May as this edition of The On Guard was going to press.

The training scenarios required Guard troops to respond to notional earthquakes centered in Arkansas and South Carolina and to a significant simulated terrorist attack in Washington state. Tennessee and South Carolina Guard forces were primed to direct Vigilant Guard exercises involving the earthquakes during the week of April 20. The Washington Guard was set to take part

in a National Level Event conducted by the Department of Homeland Security during the first week in May.

“This training is vital so that our emergency responders know how to work together in case of a real catastrophe,” said Army Guard Lt. Col. Eric Maxon, a National Guard Bureau spokesman. “Waiting until there is a crisis before the participants get to know one another could severely impede the efforts to save lives and maintain law and order.”

The Tennessee Guard will lead the exercise based on the earthquake in eastern Arkansas, in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, because of major damage and significant loss of life in the Memphis region with a population of more than 900,000. The South Carolina response will be geared toward helping 125,000 displaced

people in the vicinity of Beaufort County and dealing with widespread property damage.

Guard personnel from Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi and Missouri were earmarked to participate in the Tennessee exercise. Troops from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia were set to take part in South Carolina.

The terrorist event in Washington state is intended to test the federal government’s ability to respond to multiple events at the same time — terrorists, a Category 4 hurricane threatening the Washington, D.C., region, and the accidental release of a chemical agent from an Oregon storage facility.

Coverage of the training exercises will be featured in future editions of The On Guard and at [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil).



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Oldham

Col. Steve Eggensperger, 189th Operations Group commander, takes an up-close look at a C-130 AMP.

## Arkansas gets sneak preview of future plane

By Master Sgt. Bob Oldham  
Arkansas National Guard

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Arkansas Air National Guard Airmen and the media received a sneak peak at the Arkansas ANG’s newest plane—the C-130 AMP—when it arrived here March 21 for a show-and-tell session. AMP stands for avionics modernization program.

The C-130 AMP on display was a C-130H2.5 that has received upgraded avionics in the cockpit by Boeing. The Air Force will upgrade more than 200, 1980s-era C-130s with the technology. The Arkansas ANG’s 189th Airlift Wing will serve as a training facility that teaches aircrews how to fly the C-130 AMP.

“We’re planning to have nine C-130 AMP aircraft on our ramp,” said Col. Jim Summers, 189th commander. But, the colonel quickly added, that’s if the program stays on track and other competing aircraft projects don’t price it out of the Air Force’s plans.

Air Force officials are striving, within budgetary constraints, to modernize the fleet while doing their part to win the war on terror and provide Airmen with an adequate quality of life. Programs like the F-22 Raptor, which costs \$160 million per plane, strain the Air Force’s budget. For every F-22 built, the Air Force could upgrade the avionics in 16 C-130H’s.

Boeing’s C-130 AMP provides enhanced digital avionics that significantly increase situational awareness for the warfighter.

“We are pleased to be here with members of the Arkansas Air National Guard,” said Mark Angelo, Boeing’s C-130 AMP deputy program manager. “We are working together applying AMP to shape the future of the C-130. Boeing’s AMP ensures the affordable, long-term combat relevance of the C-130 Hercules for years to come.”

The Air Force awarded Boeing the AMP contract in July 2001.

The C-130H2.5 stopped at Little Rock Air Force Base on its way to the Air Force Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Boeing has two C-130 AMP aircraft at this test facility. A third aircraft, a C-130H3, is undergoing modifications and upgrades at Boeing Support Systems’ San Antonio, Texas, facility.

An AMP simulator is scheduled to be delivered to Little Rock AFB in December 2008. The first AMP aircraft is expected to arrive in July 2010.

## Alaska troops sign motorcycle pact

FORT GREELY, Alaska — Motorcycle enthusiasts from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion joined together to sign the Battalion’s Motorcycle Safety Agreement and Rider’s Covenant March 21. All 19 Soldiers in the unit who own and operate motorcycles signed the covenant.

The battalion’s motorcycle training included a video by Maj. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, reminding Soldiers that the U.S. Army’s mandated personal protective equipment is required at all times, regardless of state requirements.

This video is available at <https://cra.army.mil/Multimedia/detail.asp?iData=75&iCat=58&iChannel=19&nChannel=Multimedia>

As part of the covenant, Soldiers agreed to wear the following:

- A Department of Transportation-approved motorcycle safety helmet and eye protection
- Long sleeve shirt or jacket
- Long, sturdy pants
- Sturdy boots or over-the-ankle footwear
- Full-fingered gloves
- Brightly colored outer upper garment

—ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Earl

## Dropping in

A Washington Guard Chinook helicopter leaves the drop zone as scouts of Idaho’s Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 116th Cavalry Regiment hit the desert floor during an air assault training exercise at the Orchard Training Area south of Boise, Idaho.

## Maryland to dedicate memorial

REISTERSTOWN, Md. — The Maryland National Guard plans to dedicate its Fallen Warrior Memorial at the Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown on Memorial Day, May 26.

The memorial will serve as a lasting tribute to members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism since 9/11.

It is located near the Camp Fretterd Armory, adjacent to a grove of pine trees planted to honor Maryland Guardmembers called to active duty for Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

“The men and women of the Maryland National Guard continue to selflessly and courageously serve at home and abroad, each

and every day, fulfilling their mission in defense of our nation and service to our state,” said Gov. Martin O’Malley.

“For those who deployed but will never return, this memorial is one small way of saying thank you for your service on behalf of a grateful state and nation,” he added.

The memorial consists of a covered structure, approximately 25 feet in diameter, with two vertical granite monuments placed in the center on which the names of the fallen servicemembers will be placed.

A bronze sculpture 45 inches high, representing the boots, helmet and weapon of the Fallen Warrior, will be placed in front of the two granite monuments.

The memorial was designed by an architect and draftsman with the Maryland Guard.

Seven members of the Maryland Guard have fallen in the line of duty while serving in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The memorial will serve as a sanctuary for families and loved ones to remember and honor these heroes.

Military Department operating funds will provide the lighting of the memorial, a sidewalk from the parking lot and a concrete slab on which the memorial will stand. All remaining elements of the memorial are being funded by private donations.

—MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Maryland National Guard photo

This bronze statue will appear in the new memorial.



# Guarding America

## Alaska

Col. Donald "Scott" Wenke took command of the Last Frontier State's 168th Air Refueling Wing April 6. He served in Southwest Asia as the commander of the 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and director of the Joint Operations Center, 384th Air Expeditionary Wing. The 168th has more than 675 Airmen and eight KC-135R Stratotankers.

## Arizona

The Grand Canyon State's 162nd Fighter Wing hosted more than 300 local high school students March 27 for a program remembering the victims of the Holocaust. The event included seven Holocaust survivors giving firsthand accounts.

## Arkansas

Natural State Soldiers responded after tornadoes touched down on the southwest side of Little Rock April 3. They provided security by manning traffic control points and blocking access to roads to damaged mobile homes in Saline County. Other Soldiers provided security assistance to the Cammack City Police Department in Pulaski County.

## California

About 170 Soldiers of the Golden State's 40th Military Police Company departed for Fort Dix, N.J., April 15 for a month of training in preparation for an Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. The 40th has conducted several successful international and U.S. mobilizations and deployments in recent years, to include a 13-month deployment to Kosovo in 2006 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Hawaii

The Aloha State called out the 93rd Civil Support Team to monitor sulfur dioxide emissions and wind direction from a minor eruption of the Kilauea volcano March 23. The team provided early warning for the communities of Kona and Hilo with more than 50,000 residents.

## Iowa

In March, five Hawkeye State Soldiers of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry were among other Guardmembers from several states that took part in this year's Bataan Memorial Death March. The annual march honors the servicemembers who defended the Philippines early during World War II. It is held in the high desert terrain of the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

## Kentucky

About 500 Bluegrass State Soldiers of the 201st Engineer Battalion are going through Humvee Egress Assistance Training (HEAT)



at Fort McCoy, Wis. They are learning to survive and escape an overturned Hummer as part of their pre-deployment training.

## Louisiana

Pelican State Gov. Bobby Jindal reappointed Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau as the state's adjutant general in early April. Landreneau was first appointed to the post Nov. 8, 1997. He enlisted as a private in the state's Guard in 1969 and served on active duty in Southwest Asia as a commander during Operation Desert Storm.

## Maryland

One of the units participating in the Memorial Day dedication of the Old Line State's new Fallen Warrior Memorial will be the honor guard which will present the colors. It has performed more than 24,000 military ceremonies since its inception in 1998 and rendered more than 3,500 military honors during 2007. LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, recently presented his personal military coins to honor guard members for their performance during a recent funeral for retired Brig. Gen. Philip Sherman.

## Massachusetts

The Bay State welcomed home approximately 95 Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry on March 9 in Chicopee. The Soldiers deployed to Kosovo for 12 months to support NATO peacekeeping missions.

## Minnesota



Soldiers from the North Star State's 851st Vertical Engineer Company, attached to Multi-National Division - Baghdad, are constructing a three-story structure that will soon become the headquarters for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, at Forward Operating Base War Eagle in northern Baghdad.

The structure reportedly encompasses more than 10,000 square feet.

## Missouri

Nearly 200 Citizen-Soldiers of the Show Me State's 35th Special Troops Battalion conducted a field training exercise at a Boy Scout camp in Geiger during their March drill weekend. They focused on Soldiers' skills and reactionary dexterity. The troops reacted to simulated near and far ambushes, indirect fire, and practiced movement techniques in an urban environment.

## New Mexico

Organized by Soldiers from the Land of Enchantment, servicemembers of Joint Task Force Guantanamo held their first Bataan Memorial Death March at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, March 30.



## New York

The Empire State's 107th Air Refueling Wing was renamed the 107th Airlift Wing at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station April 1. The name change is a result of a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure action which directed the 107th to convert to an airlift wing and form an association with the Air Force Reserve's 914th AW. The wing will now fly C-130 transports instead of KC-135 Stratotankers.

## Ohio

Members of the Buckeye State's Air National Guard gave free medical checkups to residents of Makaha, Hawaii, in April during a deployment there. They teamed up with the Hawaii Air Guard and the state's health department. Dozens of Airmen offered medical, dental and vision screenings, physical checkups for high school athletes and CPR classes.

## Oregon

Beaver State Col. James C. Miller is scheduled to take command of the 173rd Fighter Wing May 17, replacing Col. Thomas R. Schiess. The unit trains air-to-air combat pilots and flight doctors. The wing is based at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls.

## South Carolina

The rock band 3 Doors Down kicked off its fourth stop on the 2008 "It's Not My Time" tour by featuring Palmetto State Soldiers from the Charleston area on March 27 at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Inspired by Guardmembers across the country who have provided over 40 percent of the forces in the Global War on Terrorism while assist-

ing their fellow citizens following natural disasters, the band wrote a tribute song called "Citizen-Soldier."

## South Dakota

The Mount Rushmore State's embedded training team, known as "Coyote One," departed March 5 for Germany where its members prepared for a 10-12 month tour in Afghanistan. The 16 members spent three weeks at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany, training with NATO forces from Canada, France, Germany and Norway, as well as forces from Afghanistan.

## Texas

The Lone Star State hosted the American Heroes Celebration, which celebrates heroes past and present, at Camp Mabry in April. The event began with the grand opening of the Soldier and Airmen Support Center.

## Utah

Several dozen local and national businesses visited the Beehive State's 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation in April. The 211th has been completing the final mobilization training at Fort Sill, Okla., prior to their departure to Kuwait for a 12-month tour of duty. The visit was sponsored by the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

## Vermont

A Green Mountain state F-16 Falcon, piloted by Lt. Col. Thomas "T.J." Jackman, became the first F-16C in the world to exceed 7,000 flying hours in March. The state has been flying the F-16 since 1987 when the flying life of the F-16 was expected to be approximately 4,000 hours. Over the years, the single-engine fighters have been enhanced to extend their operational lifetimes.

## Virginia

Senior Guard staff officers from Old Dominion took part in the "Operation Cardinal Freeze" training exercise March 20 at the state's emergency operations center in Richmond to assess the response to a winter storm causing widespread power outages. The format was a facilitated, discussion-based tabletop exercise where representatives from different state agencies talked through probable responses through three distinct time periods.

## Wyoming

The Equality State is sending 16 Soldiers as an embedded training team for the Afghanistan National Army. The Soldiers will report to Cheyenne May 27. Their pre-deployment training will be at Fort Riley, Kan. They will be on active duty orders for 400 days, which can be extended, based on the Army's requirements.



# Working hand-in-hand

## Texas MPs training Iraqi police to be self sufficient

By Capt. Mark Karnauch

236th Military Police Company

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – If “transition is the mission” in Iraq, then the Police Transition Teams (PTT) are a large part of how that mission is executed.

The 236th Military Police Company, a Texas Army National Guard unit, is currently performing the PTT mission, called “Pitt,” in and around the cities of Fallujah and Habbaniyah.

With only 17 days notice, the company mobilized June 25 to Fort Dix, N.J., from its home station in San Antonio.

After two months of training in the Garden State, the 236th entered theater in mid-September. Its Soldiers immediately began working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi Police (IP), at times living under the same roof with them.

The Soldiers’ intent is to help build a professional Iraqi police force that works with the Iraqi people, obeys the rule of law and operates self sufficiently. The PTTs accomplish this by providing the IPs with training on police ethics, weapons safety, first aid, search and seizure, community relations, and detainment operations. With the help of International Police Advisors, they also train on more advanced skills such as crime scene investigation.

The Soldiers and IP conduct joint community patrols and work directly with the citizens and civic leaders within the community.

The long hours and hard work have their rewards.

“When we first went into Karmah it



Photo by Capt. Mark Karnauch

Texas Pfc. Luis De LosSantos conducts first aid training with Iraqi police in Faris.

was a ghost town,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Challes, a platoon sergeant. “Now it has a bustling economy with a great deal of foot traffic and an IP on every corner.”

## The Soldiers have experienced their share of coordinated attacks, sniper fire and ... a grenade thrown into a vehicle

The Soldiers have seen progress throughout the districts in the form of new shops, construction, paintings, signs, community improvement projects and a decline in at-

tacks. In some locations, attacks are down by as much as 90 percent from the previous year.

“It’s not what I expected,” said Spc.

Shannon Owens, a gunner from Thorndale, Texas. “I expected more hostilities, but to date it has been relatively peaceful.”

This drop in no way indicates that the dangers of combat are gone. Car bombs, roadside and suicide bombers are always a threat. The Soldiers have experienced their share of coordinated attacks, sniper fire and, on Jan. 10, a grenade thrown into a vehicle that Pfc. Brandon Price was commanding

with a Marine team. Amazingly, a piece of the pin remained in place, and the grenade did not explode. “It was a miracle,” Price said.

The Soldiers have different ways for dealing with the stress of missions and the pains of being away from their families and friends. Sgt. Kathryn Cumfer, a radio/telephone operator, likes to quilt blankets for her fellow Soldiers to decompress. First Lt. Yves Raoelina, a platoon leader, calls his family twice a week. Sgt. 1st Class Roger Flores, operations NCO, enjoys reading and lifting weights. Those in the stations also enjoy cooking, lifting weights, playing their X-Box or simply talking with their fellow team members about the events of the day.

Cultural differences between the Soldiers and Iraqis presented hurdles that the 236th had to overcome. According to Multinational Force-West policy, female Soldiers cannot participate with the embedded PTT elements.

“This posed a great challenge in the proper utilization of our female MPs,” said 1st Sgt. Joseph Haro. “But where they have operated, they have excelled.”

Differences between Soldiers and Marines have presented their share of challenges too. Learning the Marine ranks or just the jargon has been an interesting experience for some Soldiers but nothing new for the former Marines in the company.

During the tour, Soldiers and Marines have built close relationships and developed a mutual respect for each other’s services. The 236th has served under two Marine regimental combat teams and operated with several Marine battalions.

“We have worked better with the Marines than some of the Army units,” said Sgt. John Phillips, a team leader.

Lt. Col. Ben Gipe, the Marine senior adviser in Habbaniyah and brother of Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe, said, “The lord has blessed me with my Texas MPs; every one of them has a Marine attitude. How can we fail?”

# From air refueling to aerovac, New Jersey wing can adapt

Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison

New Jersey National Guard

MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. – The planes, pilots, crew and maintainers of the 108th Air Refueling have recently found themselves on flights that have little to do with the original purpose of the tanker aircraft.

Recently, nine members of the wing flew a KC-135E 43 hours in seven days, starting from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, and then on to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, to ferry wounded warriors to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The crew flew at night from Ramstein to Afghanistan to avoid enemy aircraft fire.

“With enemy fire and the mountainous terrain – our runway was 5,000 feet in altitude and had mountains on either side that towered 18,000 feet in the air – it made piloting the plane even more difficult,” said Brig. Gen. Michael S. Cunniff, the 108th’s wing commander and one of the three pilots on the mission.

The plane carried a total of 12 litters

and 21 ambulatory patients on its two trips from Bagram to Ramstein. Each trip entailed almost 24 hours from the time they left Germany, landed in Afghanistan, loaded patients and fueled and flew back to Ramstein.

Cunniff likened the trips to a Pony Express of planes that transport the injured from Southwest Asia to hospitals throughout the United States. They fly from Iraq and Afghanistan to Germany, then other planes fly them home to hospitals such as Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Other military planes then fly them to various parts of the country.

This “Pony Express” has raised the chance of survival of U.S. troops wounded in combat, more than in past conflicts. In Vietnam, the ratio of the number of deaths to the number of wounded was 24 percent; in Iraq through March 31, 2006, the ratio was 13 percent.

Pilot Col. Kevin Keehn said that the wing will be scheduling more missions like this one in the future. He said it truly made him feel that he was

contributing to the war effort.

Cunniff talked about one of the differences between a refueling flight and an aerovac mission: “On a regular refuel mission, the pilot is the mission and aircraft commander. But on the air evacuation missions, the medical commander is the mission commander.

“The medical commander could direct the pilot depending on the patient’s needs. For instance, we might need to fly lower for cabin pressure if the patient warrants it,” Cunniff said. “We have to adjust our flying profile to the medical commander’s requirements for the patients.”

These aerovac sorties are the first for the wing since the Iraq war began, Cunniff said.

We have flown in Iraqi air space while deployed to Oman, but not to Afghanistan and never landing in the country, he said.

“There is no mission more important than getting our wounded troops home to medical treatment quickly,” Cunniff stated.



## Quiet time

Tech. Sgt. Janna Cronk updates mission data inside a C-130 Hercules during a cargo mission at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, April 16. Cronk is a flight engineer assigned to the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and deployed from the Tennessee Air Guard’s 105th Airlift Squadron.

Photo by Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway



# The winds of training

## Florida, Alaska Soldiers impress Japanese in Operation North Wind

By Pfc. Denae J. Davis  
California National Guard

CAMP IWATE, Japan – On a battlefield covered in snow, forces from opposite ends of the world conducted two weeks of intense infantry training at Camp Iwate, Japan, during Operation North Wind 2008.

Now in its 12th year, Operation North Wind included Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry, Florida National Guard, and elements of the 297th Infantry, Alaska National Guard.

At the Iwatesan Training Area in northern Japan, the U.S. forces shared with the Japanese troops their firsthand combat experience gained from recent deployments.

“When the Japanese initially found out about some of our recent deployments to Iraq,” said Alaska Spc. Jon Miller, a recon Soldier, “[we received] an instantly high level of respect. So when we used our experiences in the field, they paid close attention because they gained a lot of confidence [knowing] that our tactics work.”

Expectations for North Wind were mixed. Many troops weren’t sure what to expect, however, troops discovered many differences in each side’s training techniques.

“This is my first time at North Wind and the training went above my expectations. I definitely did not expect this kind of training,” said Alaska Sgt. Trampas Vojtasek. “But, overall, I think it has been the perfect level because aside from receiving good training, these Soldiers are also learning about cultural

sensitivity while learning to break through language barriers.”

“The Japanese recon team was unbelievable. They learn so fast,” said Vojtasek, who returned from Iraq in 2006.

Vojtasek wasn’t the only Soldier who was taken aback by the efficiency and similarities of the training tactics of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF).

“I was surprised to see how well the Japanese fired their mortars,” said Florida Pfc. Eric Enrique, a mortar man. “They had a

really good base set up for their mortars and they fired them off flawlessly.”

In preparation for the culminating three-day field training exercise, troops first conducted bilateral training to see how each other worked in a field environment. Afterward the troops came together.

During live fire missions, JGSDF troops skied to and from their prone firing positions on the range. At the urban warfare village Bara Bara, U.S. Soldiers conducted cordon and search missions while the Japanese watched, and vice versa

U.S. and Japanese infantrymen developed a close bond which enhanced the training experience.

“I hope this training will help solidify the friendship between the U.S. and Japanese forces,” said Alaska Spc. Paul Oliver.

Troops had to take precautions before going into the field. The temperature dropped below 30 degrees and peaked in the high 40s.

Equipped with snow shoes they called bunny boots and arctic mittens, Soldiers from Alaska didn’t mind the heavy snowfall or chilly conditions.

Uniform modifications protected troops from the cold and kept them safe. Some wore strap-on crampons over their boots to prevent them from slipping on the ice.

No moans and groans slipped out of these Soldiers’ mouths, though.

“It was extremely beneficial to train in the snow. Coming from Alaska, it was what we are used to, and also it helps determine the overall physical fitness of our Soldiers, above and beyond a PT test,” said Miller.

For Soldiers from the Florida National Guard, it was a different story.

“I definitely wasn’t used to this



California National Guard photo

Guard Soldiers shared skills learned from recent deployments to Iraq during Exercise North Wind 2008.

**NORTH WIND continued on: Page 10**

## Minn. trains in, with Norway

Tech Sgt. Jason W. Rolfe  
Minnesota National Guard

Over a hundred members of the Minnesota National Guard deployed to Camp Verneas, Norway, in February for the Norwegian Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program. Now in its 35th year, the program allows Soldiers to experience winter training, participate in Norwegian culture and traditions and establish lifelong relationships.

During their two weeks, Soldiers and Airmen wore Norwegian equipment, including a full Norwegian uniform, cold weather clothing and winter training gear, and were trained by Norwegian Home Guard instructors.

“It is about merging the different military cultures and focusing on their military customs. It is definitely an opportunity to come together as a unit,” said 1st Lt. Michael Schwieger who took part in the exchange.

The troops learned the importance and his-

tory of winter training, how to pack equipment, ski with wooden skis and full rucksacks and set up shelters and camp.

At the Norwegian Home Guard training center at Haltdalen, the troops prepared for a Field Training Exercise (FTX) in the mountains. Over the next few days, they learned valuable winter training such as setting up emergency bivouacs, lighting fires, catching food with snares, the theory of avalanches and subsequent rescue training and skijoring. Skijoring involves soldiers being pulled behind a tracked vehicle through the snow.

“I love being with new people and playing off of each others’ strengths and weaknesses,” said Minnesota Pvt. Alissa Basinski.

The final challenge of the training involved a 5-kilometer, 30-minute skijoring ride up a mountain. There, troops bivouacked again by digging snow caves in a massive snow drift where they spent their last night of the FTX.



Minnesota National Guard photo

**Skijoring Soldiers being pulled behind a tracked vehicle in Norway.**

The Guardsmen attended formal dinners filled with both U.S. and Norwegian tradition and culture. The U.S. contingent visited nearby towns like Roros where they toured mines and experienced a traditional sleigh ride through the picturesque town.

The Norwegian Home Guard participate in a similar training program at Camp Ripley, Minn.

## Oregon troops in Bangladesh for bilateral exercise with 12 nations

By 1st Lt. Mike Odle  
Oregon National Guard

DHAKA, Bangladesh – Eight members of the Oregon National Guard deployed to the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training in Dhaka to participate in the three-week long Exercise Shanti Doot in April.

The team of Army and Air National Guard members joined over 600 soldiers from 12 countries. The exercise is designed to enhance regional capacity for peacekeeping operations, improve bilateral operations between Pacific-rim countries, promote professional relationships and good will, all the while demonstrating U.S. resolve in support of the security interests of regional allies.

The Oregon Guard team provided command and control during the exercise. It involved a wide range of operational skills and tasks, including checkpoint operations, patrolling, security of distribution sites, convoy operations and cordon and search and disarmament following United Nations (UN) protocol.

“We are practicing the core competencies needed to execute UN peacekeeping operations,” said Lt. Col. Edward Tanguy, commander, 249th Regional Training Institute and field training exercise commander for Shanti Doot. “Our goal is to enhance the readiness and interoperability of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, the U.S. Army, and other multinational participant forces.”

The National Guard is considered to be the ideal choice for conducting UN peacekeeping training because of its dual federal and state missions and civilian professional experience.

“We bring a unique skill set as Guardsmen,” said Tanguy. “From natural disaster response to peacekeeping to combat operations on the battlefield, there is no other organization that can muster such diverse capabilities to today’s military environment.”

The Oregon Guard is especially suited for this exercise due to its successful prior UN training experience. In 2006, it provided command and control for Exercise Khan Quest in Mongolia.

“Exercises and military-to-military contacts are the building blocks of partnership and friendship,” said Tanguy.

From a Soldier’s perspective, the exercise was also a great opportunity to acquire a global perspective, expand cultural awareness and understand the nuances of cross-cultural communications.

The countries participating in this exercise were Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the United States and Tonga.

**The National Guard is considered to be the ideal choice for conducting UN peacekeeping training because of its dual federal and state missions and civilian professional experience**



# Counterdrug Soldiers help civilian officers 'do it better' in exercise

*Editor's Note: Because of the specialized work they do, only the radio call signs of the personnel interviewed for this story have been used, except for the operations officer for the Georgia CounterDrug Task Force.*

**By Staff Sgt. Roy Henry**  
Georgia National Guard

LAGRANGE, Ga. — For the 10th consecutive year, the Army Guard along with the Georgia CounterDrug Task Force helped their civilian counterparts improve their ability to sneak up on the bad guys.

Exercise Woodland Training 2008 took place, as it does every

year, on the grounds of the Georgia Sheriff's Association's 2,700-acre Camp Pioneer. Twenty-two counterdrug and antiterrorist agents in and around Atlanta participated.

The five-day exercise culminated in a nighttime scenario in which the above players took down several "big-time drug dealers" and their "body guards," and seized a large amount of "illegal narcotics," weapons and vehicles using what they'd learned from their instructors. Georgia's Reconnaissance And Interdiction Detachment helicopter equipped with a Night Sun spotlight was also used during the "final exam."

"This year we've put more

emphasis on the military decision-making process," said Operations Officer 1st Lt. Shilo Crane. "Based on past experience, we've found that most agencies don't involve things like risk assessment, identifying those factors that help a team decide whether an operation can be successful based on the risk involved."

Another change is that students take more responsibility for mission planning, he said.

During the first couple of training scenarios, instructors go through the planning process showing their respective teams the military method of putting together an operation. In this way, they make sure each team member

knows their job and everyone else's.

"All-in-all, these guys have done a great job," said Instructor No. 1 for the Red Team. "They've soaked up what we've taught them and then put it into practice."

Red 1, team leader for the Red Team, agreed: "Getting it right the first time, every time, would be a great thing," he said, "but that's not the reality. What is real is that we're going to make mistakes, and this is the place where we want to make them," Red 1 said. "Because out there, mistakes made during an actual attempt to bring down a drug dealer or terrorist will get someone hurt or killed."

## Chief urges CD to look hard at resources

**By Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Hackley**  
National Guard Bureau

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A key National Guard counterdrug aircraft should continue supporting special forces missions overseas, and the Guard should continue to transition from the OH-58 helicopter to the new Light Utility Helicopter, the chief of the National Guard Bureau recommended in mid-March during the National Guard Counterdrug Program's annual conference.

"If I had a choice of National Guard assets flying around taking out criminals domestically, or overseas targeting criminals going after our troops, I know where I would rather see them," said LTG H Steven Blum during an unscheduled visit to the conference. "Counterdrug is a big deal for the defense of this nation. It is not more or less important than the fight against terrorism. One is just more pressing than the other right now."

Blum referred to the 11 fixed-wing RC-26B aircraft the Counterdrug Program uses domestically to support law enforcement agencies during criminal and drug-related missions. Equipped with reconnaissance and aerial photography capabilities, the aircraft is now supporting special forces in Iraq and other regions in conflict.

Initially, Blum worked with the adjutants general of the states that have the aircraft to loan several to the war effort temporarily, but their capabilities have been so well received that senior military leaders would like to keep them in the fight longer.

The potential loss of the RC-26B's and the counterdrug missions they support has many people concerned, but Blum believes the overseas missions are more pressing. He said he wants to explore options to replace the RC-26B's and emphasized that the Guard can find a less expensive aircraft with more "plug and play" real-time video and photography capabilities.

Blum next addressed questions about the transition from the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter to the Light Utility Helicopter slated to begin in fiscal year 2009. The new helicopters won't be equipped with the counterdrug-specific reconnaissance and surveillance equipment now on the Kiowas, but Blum believes the upgraded helicopters would provide a

more critical role in homeland defense and security.

"We are the 21st century Minutemen and -women. Our citizens expect the Guard to have the capabilities the new LUH has: Forward Looking Infrared system, synthetic aperture radar and real-time video downlink that will help us respond to our nation's needs. Whether that's a terrorist attack, a tornado, or whatever, we need the situational awareness these systems provide," he said.

Blum also spoke of his two biggest fears: a failing education system and the lack of prevention of drug abuse by our nation's youth.

**"If I had a choice of National Guard assets flying around taking out criminals domestically or overseas targeting criminals going after our troops, I know where I would rather see them"**

—LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau

"Counterdrug efforts in educating our youth are vital to the future of America," he said. "Personally, I'm afraid of a decaying education system and what drugs do to the youth of our nation."

To prove his point, Blum explained how both affect the National Guard. Thousands of potential recruits are turned away because they can't pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test or pass a urinalysis at the Military Entrance Processing Stations because they have drugs in their system, he said.

"We are disqualifying giant numbers of people who want to join the National Guard because there aren't enough drug demand reduction efforts," Blum stated.

That conversation shifted to the ongoing battle to fully fund the 4,000 Soldiers and Airmen the program was originally authorized by Congress. With a large amount of the nation's budget continuing to fund the Global War on Terrorism, money for the fight against drugs has continually diminished. Blum and other leaders continue to ask for more money in order to keep up with inflation, but it isn't

coming. This has leadership looking within the organization to see how it can better utilize available resources.

"Take a hard look at yourself, think about what you're doing, how you're using your resources now and make sure you're delivering the effects you want," Blum said.

Richard Douglas, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counter-narcotics, was the keynote speaker for the conference and heard everything Blum had to say. He agreed that having the ability to look within an organization, evaluating its efforts and the fruits of those efforts are important.

"The willingness to look at ourselves

critically can help us avoid complacency and stagnation. It's important in an organization like this that frankly deals with matters of life and death," Douglas said.

Blum urged attendees to continue to defend our nation from drugs.

"I believe we can still do more," he said. "I want you to have a better program that is more effective at keeping drugs away from kids and adults in your communities. Drugs deny America the freedoms we fight and die for."

### GUARD FACTS

The Counterdrug Program supports military, law enforcement, and community-based counterdrug operations at all levels of government to anticipate, deter, and defeat these threats in order to enhance national security and protect our society.

## HEADS UP!

### Tuskegee conference

The 37th Annual Tuskegee Airmen Convention is scheduled for July 17-20 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia. Tuskegee Airmen Inc. is a nonprofit organization with 50 chapters nationwide dedicated to honoring the accomplishments and perpetuating the history of African-Americans who participated in aircrew, ground crew and operations support training in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

[www.tuskegeeairmen.org](http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org)

### New AF assistance

The 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) employs a tier system to help Airmen fix their personnel problems from a computer or a telephone. The first step in the tier is to visit the AFPC "Ask" Web site. The site contains a wealth of personnel information and services that would have been available only at a military personnel flight in the past. If the site does not answer your question, call the center at (800) 616-3775 anytime where a customer service representative will assist you. Assistance by telephone is available 24 hours a day across the world.

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>

### TSP: a benefit for life

The Federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) provides ease of savings and tax benefits like civilian employer 401(k) plans. TSP allows servicemembers the opportunity to make tax-free savings contributions directly from their salary. Investment options vary and their contributions and earned interest remain tax exempt until funds are withdrawn at age 59 ½.

[www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)

### Flags for ANG retirees

The Air Reserve Personnel Center now purchases and distributes flags for all reservists who request one for their retirement. Flags will be sent with retirement orders. Each of the more than 8,000 reservists approved for retirement since the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve Retirement Program was launched in July 2006 has been provided an opportunity to request a flag. Retiring reservists who would like to request a flag must select "Yes" on the "Would you like a U.S. Flag?" question within the VPC-GR retirement application.

**(800) 525-0102**

### Political activity policies

A revised Defense Department directive provides a more clear definition of what servicemembers may and may not do within the political realm, particularly running for political office. The new version of Directive 1344.10, titled, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," took effect Feb. 19 and replaces the previous version issued in August 2004.

[www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf)



# IN MEMORIAM

Dedicated  
Air National Guard  
sacrificed

Total casualties as of April 9, 2008

Operation Iraqi Freedom: 456  
Operation Enduring Freedom: 64  
Operation Noble Eagle: 7  
Killed In Action: 400  
Total: 527

Note: Casualties are listed by the states in which they were serving when they died.

## ALABAMA

SGT Aubrey Bell 10/27/2003  
PFC Paul Bueche 10/21/2003  
MSG Herbert Claunch 4/18/2004  
SPC Jeremy Loveless 4/28/2003  
SGT John McGee 5/2/2005  
SPC Christopher Taylor 2/16/2004

## ALASKA

1LT Jaime Campbell 1/7/2006  
SPC Michael Edwards 1/7/2006  
SGT Manny Hornedo 6/28/2005  
SPC Jacob Melson 1/7/2006  
CW4 Chester Troxel 1/7/2006

## ARIZONA

SGT Howard Allen 9/26/2005  
SGT Charles Browning 6/1/2007  
SSG Darrel Kasson 3/4/2007  
PFC Mykel Miller 9/6/2007  
CPL Jeremiah Robinson 10/6/2005  
SGT Elijah Tai Wah Wong 2/9/2004

## ARKANSAS

SPC Ronald Baker 10/13/2004  
SSG Hesley Box Jr. 5/6/2004  
SSG Stacey Brandon 4/24/2004  
SFC John Brown 1/20/2007  
CPL Jimmy Buie 1/4/2005  
SGT Russell Collier 10/3/2004  
CPT Arthur Felder 4/24/2004  
CW3 Patrick Kordsmeier 4/24/2004  
SFC William Labadie Jr 4/7/2004  
SPC Joshua Marcum 1/3/2005  
SGT John Massey 7/15/2007  
SPC Jeremy McHalfey 1/3/2005  
SPC Kenneth Melton 4/25/2004  
SFC Troy Miranda 5/20/2004  
SSG Billy Joe Orton 4/24/2004  
PFC Derek Plowman 7/20/2006  
SSG William Robbins 2/10/2005  
SPC Lyle Rymer II 1/28/2005  
SPC Erich Smallwood 5/26/2007  
SGT Michael Smith 11/26/2004  
CPT Michael Taylor 1/20/2007  
SGT Chirasak Vidhyarkorn 9/29/2007  
1SG William Warren 1/20/2007

## CALIFORNIA

SSG Jerry Bonifacio Jr 10/10/2005  
SPC Marcelino Corniel 12/31/2005  
SGT Arnold Duplantier II 6/22/2005  
SGT Shakere Guy 10/29/2005  
CPT Raymond Hill II 10/29/2005  
SGT Eric Holke 7/15/2007  
SGT Timothy Kiser 4/28/2005  
SPC Rhys Klasno 5/13/2007  
SFC Issac Lawson 6/5/2006  
SGT Patrick McCaffrey Sr. 6/22/2004  
SPC Michael Mihalakis 12/26/2003  
SGT Paul Neubauer 9/23/2005  
SPC Paul Nicholas 2/20/2005

SSG Michael Ottolini 11/10/2004

SSG David Perry 8/10/2003  
SPC Eric Ramirez 2/12/2004  
SSG Jose Rangel 1/23/2005  
SFC Rudy Salcido 11/9/2006  
SSG Daniel Scheile 9/24/2005  
SPC Dennis Sellen Jr 2/11/2007  
SGT Alfredo Silva 9/15/2005  
SGT Mike Sonoda Jr 9/22/2005  
SPC Quoc Binh Tran 11/7/2004  
1LT Andre Tyson 6/22/2004  
SPC Daniel Unger 5/25/2004  
1LT Michael Vega 3/20/2004  
SPC Christopher Young 3/2/2007

## COLORADO

SGT Luis Reyes 11/18/2005  
SFC Daniel Romero 4/15/2002

## CONNECTICUT

SGT Felix Del Greco 4/9/2004  
SPC Robert Hoyt 12/11/2004  
SSG Joseph Phaneuf 12/15/2006

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SPC McKinley Dent 8/26/2003  
SPC Timothy Lewis 11/19/2002  
SSG Robin Towns Sr 10/24/2007

## FLORIDA

SGT Dennis Boles 10/24/2004  
SPC Daryl Davis 11/29/2004  
SSG Joseph Fuerst III 6/24/2006  
SPC Marco Miller 12/5/2006  
CPL John Rivero 4/17/2003  
SSG Daniel Suplee 8/3/2006  
PFC Brandon Wadman 5/5/2004  
SPC Jeffrey Wershow 7/6/2003  
SPC Robert Wise 11/12/2003  
SGT Roy Wood 1/9/2004

## GEORGIA

SFC Victor Anderson 7/30/2005  
SPC Christopher Boone 2/17/2007  
SPC Jacques Brunson 7/24/2005  
SPC Joshua Dinger 8/15/2005  
SGT Philip Dodson Jr 12/2/2005  
SSG George Draughn Jr 9/1/2005  
SFC Amos Edwards Jr. 2/17/2006  
SSG Carl Fuller 7/24/2005  
SPC Marcus Futrell 12/2/2005  
SGT Jerry Ganey Jr 8/3/2005  
SPC Mathew Gibbs 8/3/2005  
SSG Charles Gillican III 5/14/2005  
SGT Jonathon Haggin 7/30/2005  
SFC Robert Hollar Jr. 9/1/2005  
SSG David Jones Sr 7/30/2005  
SGT James Kinlow 7/24/2005  
SSG Chad Mercer 6/30/2005  
SSG Dennis Merck 10/20/2005  
SGT Foster Pinkston 9/16/2004  
SGT Paul Saylor 8/15/2005  
SGT Ronnie Shelley Sr 7/30/2005  
SPC Channing Singletary 6/23/2006  
SGT Michael Stokely 8/16/2005  
SGT Thomas Strickland 8/15/2005  
SGT John Thomas 7/24/2005  
SSG Philip Travis 12/2/2005  
SFC Charles Warren 8/3/2005  
SFC Christopher Willoughby 7/20/2003

## GUAM

SGT Gregory Fejeran 3/5/2007  
SGT Christopher Fernandez 3/5/2007

## HAWAII

SGT Deyson Cariaga 7/8/2005

## IDAHO

SFC Virgil Case 6/1/2005  
SPC Carrie French 6/5/2005  
SPC James Riekema 1/14/2007  
Maj Gregory Stone 3/25/2003

## ILLINOIS

SPC Jessica Cawvey 10/6/2004  
SSG William Chaney 5/18/2004  
SSgt Jacob Frazier 3/29/2003  
SGT Landis Garrison 4/29/2004  
SPC James Grijalva 10/12/2005  
SGT Jessica Housby 2/9/2005  
SPC Charles Lamb 10/5/2004  
SGT Shawna Morrison 10/5/2004  
SGT Ivory Phipps 3/17/2004  
PFC Brandon Ramsey 8/8/2003  
SPC Jeremy Ridlen 5/23/2004  
SGT Brian Romines 6/6/2005  
SPC Ashley Sietsema 11/12/2007  
1LT Brian Slavenas 11/2/2003  
SFC Kyle Wehrly 11/3/2005  
SPC Brian Wright 12/6/2005

## INDIANA

SSG Richard Blakley 6/6/2006  
SFC Craig Boling 7/8/2003  
SPC Brian Clemens 2/6/2003  
CPT Michael Fiscus 3/26/2005  
SPC Brett Hershey 3/26/2005  
MSG Michael Hiester 3/26/2005  
SPC William Jeffries 3/26/2003  
SSG Bradley King 4/2/2007  
SGM Jeffrey McLochlin 7/5/2006  
SSG Paul Pabla 7/3/2006  
SGT Joseph Proctor 5/3/2006  
CPL Darrell Smith 11/23/2003  
SPC Norman Snyder 3/26/2005

## IOWA

SGT Casey Byers 6/11/2005  
MSG Scott Carney 8/24/2007  
SGT Paul Fisher 11/6/2003  
CSM Marilyn Gabbard 1/20/2007  
SGT Seth Garceau 3/4/2005  
2LT Richard Gienau 2/27/2005  
SPC James Kearney III 11/1/2004  
PFC David Kirchoff 8/14/2003  
SPC Joshua Knowles 2/5/2004  
SPC John Miller 4/12/2005  
SFC Scott Nisely 9/30/2006  
SPC Daniel Sesker 4/6/2006  
SPC Aaron Sissel 11/29/2003  
CW4 Bruce Smith 11/2/2003  
SGT Kampha Sourivong 9/30/2006  
SGT Gregory Tull 11/25/2005

## KANSAS

SFC Travis Bachman 8/1/2007  
SSG David Berry 2/22/2007  
SPC Don Clary 11/8/2004  
SGT Jessie Davila 2/20/2006  
MSG Bernard Deghand 9/15/2006  
SGT Courtney Finch 7/24/2007

SPC Derrick Lutters 5/3/2005  
SSG Clinton Wisdom 11/8/2004  
SPC John Wood 10/7/2006

## KENTUCKY

CPT Clayton Adamkavicius 4/21/2006  
SSG William Allers III 9/20/2005  
SSgt Brock Beery 3/23/2006  
SSG Nicholas Carnes 8/26/2007  
SSG Thomas Clemons 12/10/2006  
MSG Clinton Cubert 4/16/2006  
SPC Michael Hayes 6/14/2005  
1LT Robert Henderson II 4/17/2004  
SPC Jonathan Hughes 3/19/2005  
SFC Charles Jones 9/20/2006  
SGT Ryan Montgomery 7/3/2005  
PFC Sammie Phillips 9/10/2007  
SGT Darrin Potter 9/29/2003  
SGT James Sherrill 4/3/2005  
SPC Eric Toth 3/30/2005  
SSG Delmar White 9/2/2007

## LOUISIANA

SGT Christopher Babin 1/6/2005  
1LT Christopher Barnett 12/23/2004  
SPC Bradley Bergeron 1/6/2005  
SFC Kurt Comeaux 1/6/2005  
SPC Michael Evans II 1/28/2005  
SPC Huey P. Long Fassbender 1/6/2005  
SGT Robin Fell 5/19/2005  
SPC Armand Frickey 1/6/2005  
SGT Terrell Gilmore 3/30/2008  
SPC Lee Godbolt 3/26/2005  
SFC Peter Hahn 5/24/2005  
SGT Paul Heltzel 3/15/2005  
SFC John Hennen 6/17/2007  
SGT Floyd Knighten Jr. 8/9/2003  
SSG William Manuel 1/10/2005  
SPC Warren Murphy 1/6/2005  
SGT David Murray 6/9/2005  
SPC Craig Nelson 12/29/2004  
SGT Nicholas Olivier 2/23/2005  
PFC Kristian Parker 9/29/2003  
SPC Christopher Ramsey 1/28/2005  
SSG Johnathan Reed 1/28/2005  
SGT Bernad Sembly 5/19/2005  
SGT Isiah Sinclair 3/26/2005  
SGT Robert Sweeney III 1/10/2005  
SPC Seth Trahan 2/19/2005

## MAINE

CPT Patrick Damon 6/15/2006  
SPC Thomas Dostie 12/21/2004  
SPC Christopher Gelineau 4/20/2004  
SFC Michael Jones 3/3/2005  
SSG Dale Kelly Jr. 5/6/2006  
SGT Richard Parker 6/14/2007  
SGT Lynn Poulin Sr 12/21/2004  
SSG David Veverka 5/6/2006

## MARYLAND

CPL Samuel Boswell 10/14/2005  
SSG Collin Bowen 3/14/2008  
CPL Bernard Ceo 10/14/2005  
SGT Brian Conner 10/14/2005  
CSM Roger Haller 1/20/2007  
SSG Michael McMullen 1/10/2006

## MASSACHUSETTS

MAJ Jeffrey Calero 10/29/2007  
CPL Ciara Durkin 9/28/2007

## MICHIGAN

SGT Spencer Adams 10/2/2005  
PFC Wilson Algood 10/2/2005  
SPC Timothy Brinkley 10/2/2005  
SPC Dane Carver 10/2/2005  
PFC John Dearie 10/2/2005  
SGT Duane Dreier 10/2/2005  
SPC Craig Frazer 10/2/2005  
SPC Richard Goetz 10/2/2005  
SSG Ricky Kiehl 10/2/2005  
SPC Bobby Meijer 10/2/2005  
SFC James Pries 10/2/2005  
SPC Bradley Shilb 10/2/2005  
SGT Matthew S. Smith 10/2/2005  
SPC Brandon S. Smith 10/2/2005  
SSG Michael Sullivan 10/2/2005  
SPC Chad Vollbrecht 10/2/2005  
SGT Matthew W. Wright 10/2/2005  
SGT Thomas Wright 10/2/2005  
SGT Joshua Young 10/2/2005

## MINNESOTA

SSG David D. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Joshua H. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Brent K. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Jesse L. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Bryan McDowell 10/2/2005  
SGM Michael M. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Kyle M. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Jacob P. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Greg R. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Corey R. Smith 10/2/2005  
1LT Jason Timmer 10/2/2005  
PFC Nicholas T. Smith 10/2/2005  
SSG James W. Smith 10/2/2005

## MISSISSIPPI

SSG Larry Arnold 10/2/2005  
SPC Bryan Barlow 10/2/2005  
SPC Lerando Brown 10/2/2005  
SPC James Chaney 10/2/2005  
SFC Sean Cook 10/2/2005  
SSG Travis Cook 10/2/2005  
SPC Raphael D. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Joshua L. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Terrance L. Smith 10/2/2005  
SSG Tommy L. Smith 10/2/2005  
SPC Audrey L. Smith 10/2/2005  
SPC Robert M. Smith 10/2/2005  
CPT Lowell M. Smith 10/2/2005  
1LT Robert Oneto-Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Timothy O. Smith 10/2/2005  
SSG Saburant P. Smith 10/2/2005  
SPC Robert P. Smith 10/2/2005  
SPC Joseph R. Smith 10/2/2005  
SSG Christopher R. Smith 10/2/2005  
SFC William S. Smith 10/2/2005  
2LT Matthew S. Smith 10/2/2005  
SGT Daniel V. Smith 10/2/2005

## MISSOURI

1LT Debra Banas 10/2/2005  
SGT Michael E. Smith 10/2/2005  
SFC Michael E. Smith 10/2/2005  
PFC Alva Gay 10/2/2005  
SPC Joshua Neumann 10/2/2005  
SSG Lawrence P. Smith 10/2/2005



# dedicated to the men and women of the Army and National Guard who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the United States of America

National Guard casualties from the Global War on Terrorism are updated weekly on the National Guard Web site: [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil)



Kelley 6/8/2005  
reault 12/23/2003  
oney 9/25/2003

**IGAN**

kers 12/8/2005  
rim 12/23/2006  
rown 11/4/2005  
ver 12/26/2005  
ng 11/21/2005  
asky 7/10/2006  
nk 7/17/2004  
ward 4/14/2003  
ffer 3/15/2005  
ia II 12/23/2006  
tap 11/23/2006  
ling 11/18/2006  
Soper 6/6/2007  
tout 1/22/2007  
tter 12/26/2003  
ner 12/23/2006  
ebber 4/27/2006  
right 5/14/2007  
mans 3/1/2006

**ESOTA**

ay 2/21/2005  
son 8/30/2006  
ch 6/16/2006  
tka 2/21/2005  
nough 12/2/2006  
tettile 2/1/2007  
ler 6/29/2006  
ysten 2/12/2005  
wer 3/23/2007  
stad 12/2/2006  
erman 2/21/2005  
rcotte 12/4/2006  
ika Jr 1/9/2007

**SSIPPI**

ld Sr 6/11/2005  
ron 5/23/2005  
own Jr 3/15/2008  
ce III 11/6/2003  
ley 2/3/2005  
per 7/15/2005  
avis 12/2/2003  
add 5/1/2004  
ee Sr 6/11/2005  
ittle 5/2/2005  
sford 5/23/2005  
Nail 2/11/2005  
ller II 8/31/2005  
ikorski 10/31/2005  
sbe 2/16/2005  
arker 5/23/2005  
ugh 3/2/2005  
naim 2/16/2005  
obinson 3/25/2006  
illers 2/17/2007  
ovall 8/22/2004  
nado 5/23/2005

**OURI**

szak 10/28/2005  
Barry 2/1/2003  
uga 9/9/2006  
lord 5/5/2006  
sche 7/12/2003  
arrish 10/7/2006

SSG Bradley Skelton 2/6/2008  
SGT Matthew Straughter 1/31/2008

**MONTANA**

SGT Travis Arndt 9/21/2005  
MSG Robbie McNary 3/31/2005

**NEBRASKA**

PVT William Bailey III 5/25/2007  
SGT Germaine Debro 9/4/2006  
SGT Jeremy Fischer 7/11/2004  
SGT Joshua Ford 7/31/2006  
SSG Jeffrey Hansen 8/27/2006  
SFC Tricia Jameson 7/14/2005  
SGT Jacob Schmuecker 7/21/2007  
SFC Linda Tarango-Griess 7/11/2004

**NEVADA**

SPC Anthony Cometa 6/16/2005  
CW3 John Flynn 9/25/2005  
SGT Patrick Stewart 9/25/2005

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

SPC Alan Burgess 10/15/2004  
SPC Jeremiah Holmes 3/29/2004

**NEW JERSEY**

SGT Frank Carvill 6/4/2004  
SPC Ryan Doltz 6/5/2004  
SPC Christopher Duffy 6/4/2004  
SGT Humberto Timoteo 6/5/2004

**NEW MEXICO**

SGT Marshall Westbrook 10/1/2005

**NEW YORK**

SPC Segun F. Akintade 10/28/2004  
SPC Azhar Ali 3/2/2005  
1LT Louis Allen 6/7/2005  
1LT Gerard Baptiste 9/11/2001  
CPL Joseph Behnke 12/4/2004  
SGT Larry Bowman 9/11/2001  
PFC Nathan Brown 4/11/2004  
SGT Christian Engeldrum 11/29/2004  
CPT Phillip Esposito 6/7/2005  
SPC David Fisher 12/1/2004  
SSG Henry Irizarry 12/3/2004  
SGT Anthony Kalladeen 8/8/2005  
SPC Alain Kamolvathin 1/16/2005  
SGT Denise Lannaman 10/1/2006  
SPC Wai Phyo Lwin 3/2/2005  
SSG Heath McMillan 7/27/2003  
PFC Francis Obaji 1/17/2005  
PFC Hernando Rios 8/8/2005  
SPC David Roustum 11/20/2004  
PFC Benjamin Schuster 2/25/2006  
SPC Roshan (Sean) Singh 9/11/2001  
PFC Wilfredo Urbina 11/28/2004  
SGT Michael Uvanni 10/1/2004  
PFC Kenneth Gri Vonronn 1/6/2005  
SPC Michael Williams 10/17/2003

**NORTH CAROLINA**

SGT Leonard Adams 1/24/2005  
SGT Darry Benson 8/27/2006  
SSG Harold Best 10/7/2003  
SPC Jocelyn Carrasquillo 3/13/2004  
CPT Christopher Cash 6/24/2004  
SPC Daniel Desens 6/24/2004  
SSG Bobby Franklin 8/20/2003  
SSG Emanuel Pickett 4/6/2008

SGT Thomas Ray II 3/22/2008  
SPC David Stelmat 3/22/2008  
SSG Michael Voss 10/8/2004  
SGT David Williams 3/22/2008

**NORTH DAKOTA**

SPC Philip Brown 5/8/2004  
SPC Jon Fettig 7/22/2003  
CPL Nathan Goodiron 11/23/2006  
SSG Kenneth Hendrickson 1/24/2004  
SPC Michael Hermanson 5/24/2006  
SPC James Holmes 5/8/2004  
SPC Chris Kleinwachter 11/30/2006  
SSG Lance Koenig 9/22/2004  
SPC Curtis Mehrer 6/6/2006  
SGT Keith Smette 1/24/2004  
SGT Travis Vanzoest 6/6/2006  
SPC Cody Lee Wentz 11/4/2004

**OHIO**

SGT Michael Barkey 7/7/2004  
SPC Todd Bates 12/10/2003  
PFC Samuel Bowen 7/7/2004  
SFC Daniel Crabtree 6/8/2006  
SGT Jeremy Hodge 10/10/2005  
PFC Ryan Martin 8/20/2004  
SFC Daniel Pratt 11/3/2005  
SSG Aaron Reese 12/10/2003  
Lt Col Kevin Sonnenberg 7/15/2007  
SPC Anthony Vinnedge 7/5/2007  
1LT Charles Wilkins III 8/20/2004

**OKLAHOMA**

SPC Kyle Brinlee 5/11/2004  
SGT Buddy Hughie 2/19/2007

**OREGON**

SSG Tane Baum 9/25/2005  
SSG Kevin Davis 4/8/2005  
SGT Justin Eyerly 6/4/2004  
SPC Benjamin Isenberg 9/13/2004  
SPC David Johnson 9/25/2004  
PFC Ken Leisten 7/28/2004  
SPC Justin Linden 6/4/2004  
SSG Nathaniel Lindsey 9/9/2006  
1LT Erik McCrae 6/4/2004  
SPC Eric McKinley 6/13/2004  
SPC Nathan Nakis 12/16/2003  
SGT Long Nguyen 2/10/2007  
SGT John Ogburn III 5/22/2005  
WO1 Adrian Stump 9/25/2005  
SFC Mark Warren 1/31/2005  
SSG David Weisenburg 9/13/2004

**PENNSYLVANIA**

SFC Brent Adams 12/1/2005  
SGT Jan Argonish 8/27/2007  
SSG Daniel Arnold 9/28/2005  
SGT Sherwood Baker 4/26/2004  
MSG Scott Ball 8/27/2007  
SSG Keith Bennett 12/11/2005  
LTC Richard Berretini 1/11/2008  
PFC Oliver Brown 9/28/2005  
SFC Daniel Brozovich 10/18/2006  
SPC Frederick Carlson 3/25/2006  
SPC Carl Curran 5/16/2004  
PFC Nathaniel Detample 8/9/2005  
SGT Michael Egan 9/19/2005  
SPC William Evans 9/19/2005  
SPC William Fernandez 9/19/2005  
SGT Christopher Geiger 7/9/2003

SGT Brahim Jeffcoat 8/6/2005  
SPC Mark Kasecky 5/16/2004  
SPC Kurt Krout 8/6/2005  
SPC John Kulick 8/9/2005  
SFC Daniel Lightner Jr 10/27/2005  
SPC Jeremy Maresh 4/24/2007  
SFC Randy McCaulley 3/23/2006  
LTC Michael McLaughlin 1/5/2006  
SPC Mark Melcher 4/15/2006  
SGT Carl Morgain 5/23/2005  
SPC Clifford Moxley 9/25/2004  
SSG Ryan Ostrom 8/9/2005  
SPC Gennaro Pellegrini Jr 8/9/2005  
SFC George Pugliese 9/28/2005  
SGT Eric Slebodnik 9/28/2005  
SGT Francis Straub Jr 8/9/2005  
SGT Joshua Terando 11/10/2005  
MSG Sean Thomas 3/27/2007  
SPC Lee Wiegand 9/28/2005

**PUERTO RICO**

SPC Richard Orengo 6/26/2003  
MSG Julian Rios 8/2/2007  
SSG Milton Rivera-Vargas 12/8/2005

**RHODE ISLAND**

SPC Michael Andrade 9/24/2003  
SGT Charles Caldwell 9/1/2003  
SSG Joseph Camara 9/1/2003  
SGT Christopher Potts 10/3/2004

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

PVT Algernon Adams 10/28/2003  
SSG James Bullard 10/30/2007  
SGT Stephen High 4/6/2005  
SGT Shawn Hill 1/2/2008  
CW4 Patrick Leach 12/9/2004  
SSG Jerome Lemon 10/27/2004  
SGT Edward Philpot 10/23/2007  
1LT Andrew Shields 12/9/2004  
SPC Chrystal Stout 4/6/2005  
MSG Thomas Thigpen Sr. 3/16/2004

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

SSG Cory Brooks 4/24/2004  
SSG Daniel Cuka 12/4/2005  
SGT Allen Kokesh Jr. 2/7/2006  
SPC Dennis Morgan 4/17/2004  
CW2 Paul Pillen 10/17/2005  
SFC Richard Schild 12/4/2005  
SSG Gregory Wagner 5/8/2006

**TENNESSEE**

SSG Nathan Bailey 11/12/2003  
SGT James Carroll 7/31/2005  
SFC Mark Edwards 6/9/2005  
CW3 William Flanigan 7/2/2006  
SSG Asbury Hawn II 8/14/2005  
SGT Joseph Hunt 8/22/2005  
SSG Stephen Kennedy 4/4/2005  
SGT Dustin Laird 8/2/2006  
SSG Victoir Lieurance 8/22/2005  
SSG David Loyd 8/5/2003  
SGT Stephen Maddies 7/31/2007  
SGT Gary Reese Jr 8/14/2005  
SGT Roger Rowe 7/9/2003  
SGT Alfred Siler 5/25/2005  
SGT Shannon Taylor 8/14/2005  
SGT Paul Thomason III 3/20/2005  
SGT Robert Tucker 10/13/2005

**TEXAS**

SSG Sean Berry 10/3/2005  
SGT Alex Cox 11/22/2001  
SSG Christopher Everett 9/7/2005  
SSG Tommy Folks Jr 10/19/2005  
SPC Tomas Garces 9/6/2004  
SGT Shawn Graham 9/25/2005  
CPT Sean Lyerly 1/20/2007  
SGT Steve Morin Jr 9/28/2005

**UTAH**

2LT Scott Lundell 11/25/2006  
SSG Alan Rogers 9/29/2004  
SFC Ronald Wood 7/16/2005

**VERMONT**

SPC Alan Bean Jr 5/25/2004  
MSG Chris Chapin 8/23/2005  
1LT Mark Dooley 9/19/2005  
SGT Jamie Gray 6/7/2004  
SGT Joshua Johnson 1/25/2006  
SPC Scott McLaughlin 9/22/2005  
SPC Chris Merchant 3/1/2006  
SGT William Normandy 3/15/2004  
2LT Mark Procopio 11/2/2005  
SGT Kevin Sheehan 5/25/2004  
MSG John Stone 3/28/2006

**VIRGINIA**

SSG Jesse Ault 4/9/2008  
SGT Derek Banks 11/14/2007  
SGT Bobby Beasley 8/7/2004  
SSG Darryl Booker 1/20/2007  
COL Canfield Boone 9/11/2001  
SSG Craig Cherry 8/7/2004  
SPC Kyle Hemauer 5/23/2005  
COL Paul Kelly 1/20/2007  
SPC David Lambert 10/26/2007  
SGT Nicholas Mason 12/21/2004  
SSG Jeremiah McNeal 4/6/2008  
SGT David Ruhren 12/21/2004  
CW4 William Ruth 9/11/2001

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**

LTC David Canegata III 1/20/2007  
SFC Floyd Lake 1/20/2007

**WASHINGTON**

SGT Damien Ficek 12/30/2004  
SPC Donald McCune 8/8/2004  
SPC Jeremiah Schmunk 7/8/2004  
SGT Jeffrey Shaver 5/12/2004  
SPC Glenn Watkins 4/5/2005

**WEST VIRGINIA**

SGT Deforest Talbert 7/27/2004  
SGT Gene Vance Jr. 5/19/2002

**WISCONSIN**

SSG Robert Basham 4/14/2007  
SPC Stephen Castner 7/24/2006  
SGT Ryan Jopek 8/2/2006  
SPC Charles Kaufman 6/26/2005  
SSG Todd Olson 12/27/2004  
SGT Andrew Wallace 9/26/2005  
SPC Michael Wendling 9/26/2005  
SPC Michelle Witmer 4/9/2004

**WYOMING**

CPT Robert Lucero 9/25/2003  
LTC Charles Munier 6/12/2006  
SSG Michael Parrott 11/10/2005  
SFC Theodore Spatol 12/14/2006





Maj. Bernard Napier, with the D.C. National Guard's 74th Troop Command, holds one of two giant American flags unfurled on the outfield during pregame ceremonies for the inaugural game at Nationals Park in Washington March 30.

# DC Guard welcomes Nationals at new park

Story/photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – Baseball, hot dogs and the National Guard.

Such was the scene for the inaugural game at the new \$611-million Nationals Park in Washington March 30 as Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen from the D.C. National Guard unfurled two 150-by-65 foot American flags in the outfield. The D.C. Air National Guard's 121st Fighter Squadron provided an F-16 Fighting Falcon flyover. The commander in chief, a former Air Guardsman himself, threw out the first ball.

For 33 seasons, from the Senators' final game in 1971 to the Nationals' first in 2005, the nation's capital was without major

league baseball. It returned in 2005 at 43-year-old RFK Stadium.

Before the unfurling, this year's crowd rose to its feet, clapped and cheered as about 100 Guardmembers filed through the stadium.

"We're Americans, we're Soldiers, and we appreciate it," said Army Maj. Curtis Cherry with the D.C. National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters. The flag ceremony has become a National Guard tradition at the Nationals' opening game.

"Walking out to the outfield with the flag is a special moment," said Cherry, an Iraq War veteran. "You remember your service. You remember your fallen comrades. You remember the honor and duty and the reason why you serve."

Army Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Rayfield, 276th



President Bush throws out the first pitch.

Military Police Battalion, is a 15-year Guard veteran. "It's a good honor," she said. "It made you feel real good."

"It's quite a privilege," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Bruner, 113th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "There's a tremendous sense of pride."

The Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves 3-2.



Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

## Down the line Airman moonlights as Nationals ball girl

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

In uniform, Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Hackley is a public affairs specialist for the Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Program. Off duty, she's a Nationals' ball girl.

"This is my third year with the team," Hackley said. "It's an unbelievable opportunity."

She expects to work about 40 night and weekend games this year. Her mission: corralling "souvenir" foul balls.

"Protocol says give the ball to a young fan dressed in Nats gear," she said.

Nationals Park is designed to bring the fans close to the game. Hackley said the atmosphere is intimate.

"This will be a new experience this year with the stadium, with the seating – the fans are right there," she said. "I had about 25 kids behind me the whole game. They want to talk. It's so much fun. The kids look up to you. It's great."

As for the Guard's role in this Nationals' inaugural game, Hackley said, "It's fabulous. The National Guard is part of your community, and what else is part of your community? America's favorite pastime, baseball."

### From page 6: NORTH WIND

weather. It's really cold out here and training in the snow was different. Our Soldiers went from 90-degree weather to 20-degree weather with snow," said Florida Cpl. Jose Fernandez, bundled in cold weather gear, long underwear and neck gator. "It's the same type of training, but instead of heat injuries we had to acclimatize and prevent cold weather injuries."

The Sunshine State Soldiers understood the importance of honing their skills in all climates.

"Training in the snow was somewhat of an obstacle, but regardless I think throughout this we were able to overcome any of those obstacles because our mission doesn't change when the weather does," said Florida Spc. Chad Krumwiede.

## Not lost in translation

Language barriers were just as much an obstacle as the weather for U.S. Soldiers.

There were interpreters to offer assistance. But Soldiers like Vojtasek, Oliver and Miller have found it easier to communicate by demonstrating to the Japanese troops firsthand what they would like them to do.

Troops from both sides of the Pacific communicated with hand and arm signals as well as visually demonstrating what they were trying to do.

"We are all fighting Soldiers. We learn to communicate by purpose. When you understand your purpose, it's easy to communicate your intent," said Oliver.

The strong communication with the infantry Soldiers at Iwatesan Training Area did not go unnoticed by members of the JGSDF.

"I worked in the urban training area with the American

Soldiers and I enjoyed watching the interaction between Soldiers and the level of teamwork they had," said Master Sgt. Haruo Nakumara, JGSDF. "The Soldiers were continually keeping each other informed and had a level of communication with each other as a team."

U.S. and Japanese troops left with new skills and valuable training to take back to their units and incorporate into their standard operating procedures.

The U.S. troops also developed a sense of brotherhood.

"The training was very positive in every way. I know I'll be able to take my experiences from North Wind back to Florida with me ... especially the cold weather training. But next time, I'd like to have the Japanese forces and the Alaskan Soldiers come to Florida to train in our climate," said Enrique with a smile.

For more National Guard news, including stories, photos and video, visit: [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil)



# Airmen watch over flood recovery efforts

## S. Carolinians collect satellite imagery for damage assessment

By Senior Master Sgt. Matt Proietti  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Airmen from McEntire Joint National Guard Base, S.C., recently provided satellite imagery to assist state and federal agencies in relief efforts following flooding in Missouri and Arkansas.

Members of the 169th Communications Flight at McEntire collected imagery using Eagle Vision, a mobile commercial imagery direct downlink system, to use in damage assessment and reconstruction in the two states.

Through Eagle Vision, Air Force officials receive images from commercial satellites. Airmen process data and forward it to the U.S. Geological Survey, which distributes it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, coordinator of the federal government's role in preparing for—and recovering from—domestic disasters.

Eagle Vision has provided about 15 images in response to the tornadoes and floods that have occurred in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and surrounding states over the past two months, said Brenda Jones, disaster response coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls, S.D.

"The images have been a valuable asset in determining areas of impact and in damage

assessment," Jones said. "Eagle Vision (is) a valuable asset in the acquisition of remotely-sensed imagery during disaster response. Having a link to the systems operations team has provided the opportunity to schedule acquisitions based on changing priorities from the response community."

Eagle Vision is a total force effort. Active-duty, Reserve and Guard Airmen operate the system at four U.S. bases and one in Germany. The Army also has an Eagle Vision unit.

"It helps recovery and response efforts and provides training for our crews," said Jerry Brooks, director of the Air Force Combat Support Office Chief of Staff Innovation Program at the Pentagon.

Communication improvements in the last five years between government agencies has allowed the Air Force to be more helpful, Brooks said.

"My boss says, 'If it's on CNN, we're working it, too,'" Brooks said of his supervisor, James Clark. "We send imagery to those who need it, and we'll be there until they tell us they don't need us anymore."

In their combat support role, Eagle Vision units deploy to provide planning and mission assistance for military operations. Each system is staffed by 12 to 15 people. Operational within three hours of arrival, Eagle Vision can respond with processed imagery data support within two to four hours of its collection.

The system evolved from a wartime need during Operation Desert Storm for a timely and responsive method to acquire broad area imagery to support contingency operation applications, Brooks said.



U.S. Air Force image

An Eagle Vision satellite image shows a flooded area in Clarendon, Ark., with the original river path in the lower left corner. Farmland appears as red boxes, while darker red shows partially-submerged farmland. Green boxes detail property completely submerged by water. Much of the lower middle of this photo shows submerged farmland.

# Louisianans fill 5,000 'super sacks' to save crops

## Soldiers use heavy equipment to bolster levee during flooding

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone  
Louisiana National Guard

CAMP BEAUREGARD, La. – In late March, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal praised the efforts of the National Guard while visiting the farming communities of Morganza and Batchelor in Pointe Coupee Parish. Louisiana Soldiers fought to save millions of dollars worth of crops from the flood waters of the Mississippi River.

"Before this week is done, I hope every one of us finds one of these Soldiers and thanks them for what they do," said Jindal.

More than 5,000 acres farmed by eight farmers and owned by nearly 50 landowners were at risk at the Potato Levee in the Atchafalaya River Basin, north of the Morganza Spillway. Significant rains throughout the Mississippi River Basin raised the water levels and threatened the wheat and soybean crops.

Soldiers from the 225th Engineer Brigade worked against time, operating heavy equipment to stop seepage from the levee. The Soldiers filled 4 by 4 foot "super sacks" with approximately 3,000 pounds of soil in an attempt to raise the levee for 2.2 miles before the river crested.



Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone

A Louisiana Soldier places a 3,000-pound "super sack" filled with soil along a levee to help farmers save their crops from possible flooding in March.

Two Soldiers worked the same mission 25 years ago.

Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Vicellio, operations NCO for the 225th Engineer Brigade, helped save the very same properties in 1983 as a private first class. At the time, the method of filling sandbags consisted not of forklifts, backhoes

and track hoes and huge super sacks, but of shovels and small sandbags containing less than 50 pounds of dirt.

"As a private, the mission was just as important as it is now; however, advances in technology have made the job more efficient and effective," stated Vicellio. "Ultimately,

we are still a part of this community and are trying to help save a lot of good people from severe hardships."

The 225th's Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major, a resident of nearby Ventress, La., was a readiness NCO 25 years ago when the Guard helped sandbag the levee. He explained that having the opportunity to help one's local community in such a big way is a rare gift.

"It's always good to come home and support the local community ... the Guard did a lot in 1992 after Hurricane Andrew [as well]. We spent six weeks doing cleanup because the community needed our help," said Major.

Marty Graham of Batchelor, a farmer of more than 1,200 acres of wheat, appreciates the help all the farmers and landowners received from the Soldiers.

"It means a lot to our community that the Guard is here helping us. It's not just us, it's everyone," Graham explained. "We feel a whole lot more confident with the National Guard's help in that we will ... get it completed."

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general, spoke to Soldiers individually while they worked at the project site.

"Every community project we work on, especially when working an emergency situation, is rewarding to the Soldiers involved," said Landreneau. "I'm particularly proud that we can assist in whatever little part we can play in this project."



## Newsmakers

### ‘Not talking K-rations’

Utah Sgt. 1st Class Jason Talcott cochaired the Freedom Chef Challenge cook-off held in Salt Lake City April 19. It was the first time top chefs from every branch of the military battled each other. “We’re not talking K-rations here. Most of them now work for four-star generals. One works for the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and secretary of Homeland Security,” said Talcott. He’s Utah’s foods director and has also served in Iraq and was a Pentagon chef to former Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

### Pinned by the VP

A medic from Modesto, Calif., who twice braved machine gun fire while trying to save wounded comrades from a midnight ambush in Iraq, was hailed as a hero by Vice President Dick Cheney. He presented Alaska Guard Spc. Veronica Alfaro, 23, with the Bronze Star for Valor in a ceremony March 19 in Baghdad. It’s the country’s fourth-highest award, and the “V” for valor makes it rare, according to an Army spokesman.



Alfaro

### Simply Brillhart

Medical care provided by a Virginia Soldier in Iraq proved critical in preventing an infection that could have cost a young girl her arm. Capt. Jon Brillhart, a physicians assistant assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry, carefully treated an Iraqi Bedouin girl in late 2007 after she had evidently fallen into the family’s cooking fire, catching herself with her right arm. In mid-March he evaluated her again and determined she had recovered from the burns.

### Gas station drive-off

A D.C. Air Guardsman helped save a 2-year-old boy March 27 after carjackers drove off with the child in the back seat. Tech. Sgt. Lamar Elliot was driving home when he noticed a car, which had a gas pump handle sticking out of it, speed by him. The carjackers had stolen the car while its owner was gassing up, reports said. Elliot followed the car until the carjackers parked it and jumped out, reports said. That’s when Elliot went to get the keys from the still-running car and noticed a frightened toddler in back. He took him to a neighbor’s house where the child and his mother were soon reunited.

### Purple Heart and more

Utah Sgt. 1st Class Gordon L. Ewell received the Purple Heart April 1 for wounds received while assigned to the 115th Engineer Battalion, Multi-National Forces-Iraq. In addition, because of injuries related to his traumatic brain injury incurred from clearing numerous improvised explosive devices, he and his family will receive a 2,500-square-foot home in Eagle Mountain designed to accommodate him. It was made possible through the generosity of Homes for Our Troops, Alta Vista Homes, Mike’s Guardian Angel Foundation and KUTV.

# Heart of Texas

## Texas Guardsman restores car, spirit of wounded Marine

By Capt. James M. Campbell  
Texas National Guard

CAMP MABRY, Texas — Sgt. 1st Class Rick Contreras of the Joint Forces Headquarters, Texas National Guard, recently organized an effort to restore the car of a wounded servicemember. It may have restored a lot more.

The day started off well for Lance Cpl. John Middlestedt, a Marine from Texas on duty in Iraq. Stationed at a hot and dusty forward operating base, he and his unit prepared for their upcoming security mission as they always did. They loaded down their vehicle with ammo, conducted radio checks, packed their ice chest with energy drinks and joked around as only Marines can joke. Middlestedt rolled out of the base as part of a “routine” security patrol in western Iraq when it happened. BOOM!

If a Soldier is still conscious after the initial concussion, they know what comes next: intense fire followed by shrapnel. Or maybe it’s shrapnel followed by fire. It really doesn’t matter at this point. The Soldier is in the middle of it and they’re scared. Nothing prepares them for this moment. Nothing at all. What’s for certain is that flying shards of metal, a blazing mushroom of fire and black smoke, charred dust, and the acrid smell of sulfur will soon envelope what’s left of their twisted vehicle. Roadside bombs are incredibly destructive and, sadly, very effective. What started out as a normal day for John ended badly ... very badly.

The lance corporal was evacuated from the scene with shrapnel all over his body, particularly in his lower extremities. He went through surgery to remove the shrapnel and eventually started rehab at the Wounded Warriors Barracks on Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif. Although he now walks with the assistance of a cane, his family was just happy he made it back home alive.

Middlestedt’s mom, Jackie Hoover of Round Rock, Texas, wanted to do something special for her returning hero. While the lance corporal was recovering and preparing to come home for Christmas, Hoover thought it would be nice to fix up her son’s damaged 1997 LT1 Firebird. However, she didn’t have quite enough money for the project.

“To raise money, I advertised my cleaning services on Craig’s List and decided to barter my services to get John’s car fixed,” said Hoover.

Enter Contreras, who just happened to be surfing the Internet for auto parts when he ran across the ad on Craig’s List.

“I read Jackie’s advertisement about how her son was wounded in Iraq,” said Contreras. “She was asking for some assistance because it was going to cost about \$4,000 to repair her son’s car.”

The ad struck a chord in Contreras’ heart. As a combat veteran of Iraq and a father of three, he understood what Hoover was trying to do.

“Anyone who’s been deployed understands that it’s tough mentally coming back



Courtesy photo

Marine Lance Cpl. John Middlestedt smiles as he turns the keys to his newly restored 1997 LT1 Firebird. Sgt. 1st Class Rick Contreras of the Texas National Guard led the restoration effort.

home” said Contreras. “I wanted to help Jackie. As a father, I understand how she wants to give her son the very best she can.”

Many people support the sacrifices of servicemen and women but really don’t have an opportunity to express their gratitude. Middlestedt represented a chance to give back, and Contreras chose to act.

He immediately contacted Hoover and asked how he could help. She only wanted a little body work and some basic repairs to get the car running, but the Texas Guardsman wanted to do more.

“When Ricky came by, I thought he was going to replace the hood, the bumper, and repair the radiator,” said Hoover. “That’s all I was expecting.”

To add to the drama, Hoover wanted to



Courtesy photo

The newly restored 1997 LT1 Firebird.

keep the restoration a surprise. Contreras smiled and, in true military fashion, said, “No problem.”

The sergeant started the project by contacting his friends at an auto enthusiasts club of which he is a member. He posted Hoover’s ad on the club’s Web site and pitched the idea of totally revamping the car.

“Rick kinda led the charge on this,” said Layton Beatey, a club member. “The whole group jumped on board and did what we could by donating our money, car parts, our time and energy.”

The project took on a life of its own from there. Rick and his friends at the club contacted local auto shops and dealers around the Austin area for additional resources.

“The support was truly phenomenal,” said Contreras. “We were able to raise money and get support from around Austin and across the nation.”

While shops and dealers worked dili-

gently to get the car restored in time for Middlestedt’s return, Contreras became consumed with the project. He had to find a way to get Middlestedt out to Camp Mabry in order to surprise him with the “new” car. The car was just about finished, and time was running out. Then it came to him.

“We decided to have an ‘awards presentation’ to recognize John for his service and sacrifice,” said Contreras. “We invited his family and friends and everyone who participated in the car restoration to Camp Mabry.”

Contacted about the awards ceremony, Middlestedt graciously accepted. When he arrived at Camp Mabry that weekend, everyone gathered in an auditorium and welcomed Middlestedt with a standing ovation. Even Maj. Gen. John T. Furlow, Texas Army National Guard commander and the assistant adjutant general-Army, was present to help with the surprise. After a number of moving speeches and awards, Contreras concluded the ceremony by inviting the Marine outside to take a “victory ride” around Camp Mabry in a slick 2004 Corvette.

As Middlestedt and the driver sped away from the parking lot, the newly-restored 1997 LT1 Firebird drove forward. The car sparkled in the sun as the crowd whistled and applauded the efforts of everyone involved. The restored vehicle had almost \$15,000 invested in it, and it definitely showed. Minutes passed, and the Corvette containing the wounded Marine rounded the corner and screeched to a halt in front of the Firebird.

“Don’t tell me I get a free car?” asked Middlestedt as he slowly exited the Corvette. “Wait a minute. Is that my ... that can’t be my car!” he exclaimed, grinning broadly. The crowd erupted as Contreras gave him a heartfelt hug and the keys to his new ride. The lance corporal was still stunned and shocked at the sight.

“When I left for Iraq, the car didn’t even run,” he said. “Now look at it!”

After all that Middlestedt had been through, Contreras was just happy to see the Marine smile.

“When I hugged John, I told him that in his toughest moments, he could count on God to be there,” said Contreras. “I also let him know that he has a friend in Texas to turn to.”



# Better late than never

## Retired New York Air Guard member receives AF Cross after 40 years

By Lt. Col. Eric Durr  
New York National Guard

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, N.Y. — Retired Air Guard Chief Master Sgt. Dennis M. Richardson was awarded the Air Force Cross here April 5, 40 years after the mission that earned him the Air Force's second-highest honor.

Nearly 300 members of his former unit attended his award ceremony.

Twenty-one enlisted Airmen have been awarded the Air Force Cross since its inception. Since the Vietnam War ended, only three Air Force Crosses have been awarded to enlisted Airmen, including one for action in Somalia and two for action in Afghanistan.

Richardson, a flight engineer with the 106th Rescue Wing for 30 years, was recognized for his actions during a rescue mission March 14, 1968, in Vietnam.

"In an extraordinary display of courage and valor, Richardson, despite his wounds, leaned far outside the door of his helicopter and neutralized charging enemy combatants who appeared intent on boarding," his citation reads.

"It was a long, scary day," said Richardson, "and I don't think I did anything different than the rest of the crew."

On that day, two HH-53 Jolly Green Giant rescue helicopters were called in to res-



Photo courtesy of New York National Guard

Chief Master Sgt. Dennis M. Richardson received the Air Force Cross April 5.

cue two men from a downed F-4 Phantom fighter. The helicopters repeatedly moved in to make a pickup but were driven away by gunfire. Both aircraft sustained heavy damage, said retired Brig. Gen. Frank Cardile, a pilot on the mission.

Richardson displayed exceptional courage when he stood unprotected in the door of his helicopter to drive off the enemy, said Cardile, who presented Richardson's medal.

The team failed to make the pickup, Cardile said. Ultimately, it took 10 Army helicopters, full of Soldiers, to rescue one Airman.

Richardson and three other crew members on the mission were put in for awards.

Three of them received Silver Star Medals.

Although Richardson's medal had been granted, it was lost in paperwork.

A military history buff uncovered a paper trail that showed Richardson had been granted the medal. In December, an Air Force review panel confirmed the award and restored the medal.

Richardson, a Xerox repairman who was famed around the 106th for his gruff manner and his knowledge of helicopters, said he was glad he received the Cross in front of the Airmen he'd served with.

"This is my family," he said. It was good to get the recognition and share it with the people he cared about, he added.

## Newsmakers

### Highway hero

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Reuter and a fellow California Air National Guard member were traveling on U.S. Highway 101 near Sherman Oaks, Calif., in 2005 on their way to their unit training assembly when they saw a vehicle that had crashed and was on fire with the driver still inside. Reuter ran across the lanes of traffic and pulled the



Reuter

man to safety. He then administered the first aid he learned as a cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor in the Air Force and as a self aid and buddy care instructor in the Guard. Reuter received the Airman's Medal March 1.

### Honoring the flag

Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Golden of the Joint Forces Headquarters, Georgia National Guard, deployed to Forward Operating Base Delta, Iraq, restored the honor of a U.S. flag recently. The flag was retrieved and mailed to him by his friend Dan Turner who found the flag on the grounds of a Georgia apartment complex in February. Golden raised it up a flag pole at his base and then returned it to Turner.

### MacArthur would concur

For nine months, Capt. Todd Hopkins from the 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment served in a volatile area along the Syrian border, helping train Iraqi police and provide professional oversight for Iraqi law enforcement in Tal Afar and Mosul. It was during this command of more than 150 U.S. Soldiers in a combat zone that Hopkins honed his leadership



Hopkins

skills — skills that were recognized recently as he was selected as recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for 2007. Hopkins, who has served in the Florida Army National Guard for nearly nine years, said his 2006-07 deployment to Iraq helped him develop his leadership skills and realize the importance of "empowering" his Soldiers rather than "micromanaging" them.

### 10,000-foot reenlistment

Staff Sgt. Ryan Williamson recently extended his enlistment 10,000 feet above Afghanistan moving at 200 mph. Williamson is currently deployed with Detachment 48, Operational Support Airlift Command, South Dakota



Williamson

Army Guard, and is stationed at Bagram Air Base, 27 miles north of Kabul. His unit flies two C-12 aircraft throughout Southwest Asia. Williamson's job as the operations NCO keeps him on the ground while other servicemembers of his seven-member unit are constantly flying. So his commander decided to take his reenlistment ceremony into the air where he could administer the oath while others witnessed the event.

## Stokely Foundation works to change hearts and minds

From page 1:  
MEMORY

"They donated a lot of stuff," said Staff Sgt James Robinson, platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon, C Company. "It's like the packages just wouldn't stop. ... I know a lot of kids in the neighborhood appreciated that."

Teachers received materials as well. Unlike the children, who were happy to get the gifts without asking who they came from, the teachers wanted to know who to thank. They could barely believe their ears when Starz told them.

"They said it's almost too much to imagine," Starz said. "All the teachers wanted a copy of Sgt. Stokely's picture and the foundation's name so they could frame it and put it up

in their school. They say it's something the Quran teaches—the forgiveness of your enemies. But it's so hard to do ... it's never actually seen."

Changing Iraqis' opinion about Americans is important to winning in insurgent warfare, said Starz. When people in the States like the Stokely family donate materials, it positively impacts the abilities of ground forces, he said.

"People send us care packages and things like that — and that's fantastic — but this is directly relating to our ability," Starz said.

"It's almost the modern Rosie the Riveter. You're not going to the factories and working, but you're doing something to enable and provide another tool for the combat Soldier on the ground," he added.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Soldiers distribute school materials donated by the Mike Stokely Foundation at a school in Mullah Fayad March 27.





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

Members of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard carry the remains of Maj. Perry Jefferson to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery, April 3.

# Colorado's last Vietnam MIA laid to rest

## Fellow Air Guardsmen remember the man

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The remains of Colorado Air National Guard Maj. Perry H. Jefferson, who vanished during an observation flight 39 years ago over the jungles of South Vietnam, were at last laid to rest April 3 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Three days of events here were a high-profile attempt to put closure to a missing in action (MIA) mystery, but what exactly happened to the intelligence officer and his Army Reserve pilot, 1st Lt. Arthur Ecklund, during their fateful observation flight may never be known.

A closed-casket viewing was held at a funeral home here April 1. Families, fellow servicemembers, veterans and friends to both men attended full-honors funerals April 2 and 3, which started at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer, followed by platoon, band and caisson escorts to their gravesites.

Ecklund was interred April 2 and was previously interred in Knoxville, Ill., by his family in 2004. The Reservist attended Arizona State University and was drafted in 1966. He attended helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft training prior to his combat deployment.

More than 150 attended Jefferson's services here, including nearly 100 from Colorado who watched the state's reportedly last Guard Vietnam MIA put to rest.

Jefferson was an intelligence officer at Colorado's 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, which flew the F-100C Super Sabre. He received his bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist College and worked for Aramco in the Middle East before joining the Air Guard. His wife, Sylvia, died in 1992.

Jefferson and 375 other Colorado Air Guard members deployed to Phan Rang, Vietnam, in April 1968. They were the first Air Guard fighter squadron assigned to active duty

in Vietnam.

For retired Col. Don Neary, an F-100 pilot who served with Jefferson, thinking of his friend rekindled a mix of tears and happy memories of home at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., and deployed to Vietnam.

Neary said that Jefferson didn't need to fly on visual reconnaissance missions from Phan Rang.

"I think what his motivation was is he probably wanted to be a pilot ... but also the aircraft was our forward air control airplane," said Neary. "I think it gave him an appreciation for us, and he went out to get that experience for when he would come in and brief us in the morning."

On April 3, 1969, the 37-year-old Jefferson was flying aboard an O-1 Bird Dog observation aircraft piloted by 24-year-old Ecklund. They never returned to their base.

Defense officials said a three-day search found no evidence of a crash, and hostile forces in the area prevented other searches. Both men were listed as MIA.

"We were within a month of coming home," said Maj. Gen. John L. France in "Colorado Pride," a Colorado Air Guard history.



Colorado Air National Guard photo

From left, Maj. Perry Jefferson talks with Capt. Kent Brown at Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam.

France was the unit's operations officer in Vietnam and later served as Colorado's adjutant general. In the book, he shares the moments leading up to Jefferson's disappearance.

"Clyde Seiler and Don Neary were on a [F-100] mission together; Clyde got shot down and went into the jungle ... no parachute, he didn't get out. ... Then, we lost Perry Jefferson a few days after Clyde. It was a rough time," said France.

The unit returned home in April 1969, and the Air Guard members who served at Phan Rang were immortalized later in the National Guard Heritage Series painting "Scramble at Phan Rang."

Across the nation, 22,745 Army and Air Guardsmen mobilized during the Vietnam War. More than 9,000 deployed to Vietnam.

Jefferson's and Ecklund's case remained unsolved, and there were even rumors of them being seen after the fateful flight.


After defense officials received human remains in 1984 from a suspected military crash, eye witnesses were interviewed. One witness said the aircraft crashed on a mountain-side and the pilots died and were buried there. An excavation led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command uncovered the aircraft's wreckage, but no human remains were found at the crash site.

In 2000, the remains turned over in 1984 were identified as Ecklund's.

Defense officials said Jefferson's remains were not identified until 2007, after a Vietnamese national living in California turned them in.

The day before Jefferson's interment ceremony, visiting Colorado Guard members walked among blossoming cherry trees to the Vietnam War Memorial to lay a wreath. They also located Jefferson's name on the dark granite wall and took a rubbing for their military museum.

"Perry was everybody's friend. ... He took off on a normal observation run and never returned. He just vanished," said France.

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office's Web site states "efforts continue to recover nearly 1,800 Americans who remain unaccounted for from Vietnam." 



# Recalling the Guard's unremembered war

By John W. Listman, Jr.  
National Guard Bureau

In the January 2008 issue of *The On Guard*, I recounted the 40th anniversary of the partial mobilization of the Air National Guard during the Vietnam War. This feature examines the limited mobilization in May 1968 of selected Army National Guard (ARNG) units, some of whom served in Vietnam. Future installments will feature eight deployed units that took part in combat in Vietnam. This month we will focus on 12 ARNG units that didn't deploy and received no campaign streamers. But many of their men did serve, and some died with little notice beyond the Guard community.

On Jan. 28, 1968, the communist forces fighting in what was then South Vietnam launched a massive, nationwide offensive during that country's Tet new year's celebration. It caught U.S. and South Vietnamese forces completely by surprise. After two months of exhaustive combat, the communist's gains were all recaptured but at a high cost in American lives. President Lyndon Johnson, who had avoided calling up reserve component ground forces for fear of widening the war, was compelled by the losses to order a small, well-directed mobilization of selected ARNG units. Alert notices went out in April 1968 and all ARNG units called for the Vietnam War were mobilized on May 13.

A total of 20 ARNG organizations from 17 states were mobilized, consisting of 87 detachment- and company-sized units. In all, 12,234 ARNG men served on active duty. While female nurse-officers had been joining the ARNG in small numbers since they were authorized in 1956, there is no record of any being in the units mobilized in '68. Of these personnel, 7,040 men were sent to Vietnam; 2,729 of them in deployed ARNG units and 4,311 as individual replacements levied from nondeployed units.

The largest organization was the 69th Infantry Brigade (Separate), composed of 3,424 Kansans with Iowa's 2nd Battalion, 133rd Infantry, consisting of 819 men, attached. The brigade was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., where it remained during its entire tour. Of the men sent as replacements to Vietnam, 26 from Kansas were killed in action, the highest number of Guard dead from any state during the war. Twelve Guardsmen from Iowa also died in Vietnam.

## Sole Distinguished Service Cross

Hawaii's 29th Infantry Brigade (Separate) numbering 2,978 was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, during its tour. To round out the brigade, California's 40th Aviation Company was assigned, and two Army Reserve units were incorporated into it. Twenty Hawaii Guardsmen sent to Vietnam as replacements were killed in action. Twenty-nine helicopter pilots from the 40th Aviation Company were sent to Vietnam where they earned one Distinguished Service Cross

(the only Guardsman to receive this award during the war), five Silver Stars, 17 Bronze Stars, 11 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Purple Hearts and a staggering 584 Air Medals (14 of them with "V" for Valor), plus numerous lesser awards.

Of the five separate battalions mobilized, three were deployed to Vietnam and two, Massachusetts' 1st Battalion, 211th Field Artillery (537 men) and California's 1st Battalion, 18th Armored Cavalry (855 men), remained stateside but were heavily levied for duty in Vietnam. The 1/211th was stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., while the 1/18th was based at Fort Lewis, Wash. No mobilized Massachusetts Guardsmen were killed in action, but six Californians from the 1/18th were lost. About 280 Massachusetts' men served in Vietnam, with two earning the Silver Star. One interesting aspect of the service of members of 1/211th was that about 50 men, assigned to a number of different units in the country, gathered at Long Binh, near Saigon, in August 1969 for a New England-style cookout.

Joining the 1/211th at Benning was Florida's 35th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital composed of 84 Guardsmen, two of whom earned the Bronze Star in Vietnam. In addition, Missouri's 208th Engineer Compa-



National Guard Educational Foundation photo

**Members of the 1st Battalion, 487th Artillery, an element of the 29th Infantry Brigade, practice riot control while stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, soon after entering active duty, June 1968.**

ny (Panel Bridge) numbering 117 men was stationed at Benning. No mobilized Guard Soldiers from either unit died on active duty.

## Kansas had the most

By far, the state contributing the most Guardsmen in this mobilization was Kansas. Besides the 3,424 men mobilized as part of the 69th, the state had an additional unit mobilized, the 995th Composite Service Maintenance Company (Division, Direct Support), numbering another 165 Kansans. The unit was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, with 54 of its men levied for Vietnam, including Maj. Charles W. Malone, the company commander when the unit was mobilized and who later died in Vietnam of natural causes (the 995th's only death while on active duty). The unit earned the 13th Support Brigade's "Superior Unit Award" in February 1969.

While a maintenance unit from Kansas

was assigned to Texas, the 113th Composite Service Light Maintenance Company (Direct Support), Texas Guard, was assigned to Fort Sill, Okla. Numbering 124 personnel at mobilization, this unit was the only Guard organization to gain more new personnel, assigned from the regular Army, than the six it lost to levy for Vietnam. Of these six, five earned the Bronze Star and three received the Purple Heart.

New Jersey's 141st Transportation Company, numbering 162 men, was stationed at Fort McClellan, Ala. It spent most of its tour transporting basic trainees to ranges and other sites around post. About 153 men were eventually transferred to other units, being replaced by Army personnel, so that by the end of 1968 only nine Guardmembers remained in the company, making it the most heavily-levied ARNG unit of the war. About 40 of these men were assigned to Germany. Of the men serving in Vietnam, three earned Bronze Stars and one a Purple Heart, and there were no deaths.

The last mobilized, but nondeployed unit, was the 115th Military Police Company from Rhode Island. Consisting of 126 personnel, it was assigned to security duty at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. While stationed there, the unit made a 30-minute television program depicting the orderly transition of a Guard unit from mobilization, through training to performing actual mission-related tasks such as working as gate guards for the school. In all, 50 members of unit served in Vietnam, with eight earning the Bronze Star and one a Purple Heart.

All mobilized ARNG units were released from active duty by the autumn of 1969, with most having served about 18 months. The Army attempted to return all Guard personnel deployed overseas to their parent units in time for their release as a unit to return home. And almost all of these units were greeted at home by their governors and members of their congressional delegations. But the public at large took little notice. Few units had parades or public celebrations in their honor. The nation was just too torn apart by the war to pay respect to the service and sacrifices of these Guardsmen.



National Guard Educational Foundation photo

**Wearing camouflage paint, members of the 69th Infantry Brigade listen to a briefing before conducting a training mission at Fort Carson, Colo., in 1969.**

## It happened in May

*Selected entries from the National Guard's 365-day event calendar found at [www.NGB.Army.mil/](http://www.NGB.Army.mil/)*

## May 1, 1863:

CHANCELLORSVILLE, Va. — By the end of this three-day battle, the Army of Northern Virginia, under the command of Gen. Robert E. Lee, soundly defeats the Army of the Potomac under Gen. Joseph Hooker. This sets the stage for Lee to move north for what will be known as the Gettysburg Campaign. However, Lee and the Southern cause suffered a great setback with the death of Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Jackson, a West Point graduate who served in the Mexican War, taught mathematics at the Virginia Military Institute, then a part of the Virginia militia system.

## May 3, 1959:

WASHINGTON — Former President Harry S. Truman, who was a Guard captain commanding Battery D, 129th Field Artillery from Missouri during World War I, is the honored guest at the dedication of the new National Guard Association "Memorial" on Capitol Hill. The association, organized in 1879, is a private organization with membership restricted to National Guard officers (active and retired) and represents the Guard's political and financial interests to members of Congress on actions prohibited by federal law for the Guard Bureau to pursue.



## Small grant to family group sparks big celebration

By **Samantha L. Quigley**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A grant of just \$163 from a group that supports military families March 26 turned out to be a really big deal—not only for the recipients, but for the granting organization as well.

The grant put Our Military Kids, a group that supports families of deployed or wounded National Guard and Reserve members, over the \$1 million mark in money received, said Gail Kruzel, one of the organization's founders.

This particular grant means that two young sons of Missouri Army National Guard Maj. Matt Bacon, who currently is serving his second tour in Iraq, will get to play baseball in a local league.

The boys – Jacob, 9, and William, 10 – participated in an April 7 ceremony marking their part in the Our Military Kids' milestone.

The ceremony just happens to correspond with a visit to grandparents who live here. The trip was impossible during Bacon's last deployment, Kruzel said.

"At that time, their grandparents were also serving in Iraq," she said. "The grandmother, Susan, is with the [Judge Advocate



Photos by Gail Cureton

**Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, recognizes Jake and Will Bacon. A \$163 grant received by the Bacon brothers in April helped put Our Military Kids over the \$1 million mark in money received.**

General] Corps in the Army Reserves and now serves at the Pentagon. The granddad, Arthur, just retired as an Army Reserve chaplain."

The ceremony also recognized military children's part in the nation's defense.

"We wanted to recognize the sacrifices everyone in the family makes when a parent is deployed and wanted to acknowledge the children for their role in serving our country," said Linda Davidson, Our Military Kids' other founder. "The letters of appreciation from parents and children reinforce the importance of reaching out to support these families during times of deployment."

Kruzel and Davidson started the organization in October 2004 because they believed there was a need to provide support to the children of reserve and National Guard families who become "sudden military families." The grants the group awards average \$350 and help children play sports, study fine arts, or enroll in tutoring programs while a parent is deployed.

Our Military Kids is part of America Supports You, a Defense Department program connecting citizens and companies with servicemembers and their families serving at home and abroad.

## Georgia family group receives \$114K donation from taxpayers

ATLANTA – Gov. Sonny Perdue presented a check for more than \$114,000 to the Georgia National Guard Family Support Foundation in April at the state capitol.

"I am proud to present this donation on behalf of Georgia's citizens to support the selfless and courageous men and women, the Citizen-Soldiers, of the Georgia National Guard," said the governor.

The contribution is the result of thousands of individual donations made to the foundation through a simple checkoff box on Georgia state income tax forms. The Georgia Legislature approved the inclusion of this checkoff box in 2005. In the first year it appeared on state tax forms, donations to the foundation from taxpayers exceeded \$107,000.

Perdue and Department of Revenue Commissioner Bart Graham presented the check to Maj. Gen. Terry Nesbitt, Georgia's adjutant general.

"Our men and women in uniform can often find themselves in financial difficulties caused by the increased operational tempo of lengthy deployments, numerous exercises and continuous training that puts a strain both on family and finances," said Nesbitt. "However, it is reassuring to know that our fellow Georgians recognize these constant hardships and are willing to help."

The Georgia Department of Revenue reports that 98 percent of the money collected for the foundation are in \$1 donations.

The foundation was established to help families of Georgia Guardmembers and other servicemembers in Georgia during times of financial emergency. During 2007, the foundation provided \$325,876 in emergency relief assistance to hundreds of families. This was up more than 75 percent over relief assistance in 2006.

-GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Texas kids gain resilience with 'story'

By **Sgt. Ann Benson**  
Texas Military Forces

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas Military Forces State Family Program held its first Tell Me A Story™ event for Texas Military Forces children and their parents March 29.

Tell Me A Story™ (TMAS) is a program initiative of the Military Child Education Coalition™, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of military children. The purpose of TMAS is "to empower military children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters skills for resilience through strong peer and parent connections within a caring community." The Texas Military Forces State Family Program hopes this inaugural event will be the first of many more TMAS events in Austin and other communities throughout Texas.

"This is not just a unit program," said Cappy Rodriguez, the family program's TMAS director. "It is going to be a community program."

Rodriguez said there are 12 books in the TMAS program. "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot" by Margot Theis Raven is the first book. She added that the book teaches the children about generosity to others in need.

The story tells the true story of a little girl named Mercedes in Germany shortly after World War II. Mercedes sends a letter to a U.S. pilot, Lt. Gail Halvorsen, who secretly

story while a slide show of the illustrations was shown on a big screen. Maj. Gen. Jose S. Mayorga, Texas Army National Guard commander, also read the story in Spanish for some of the children. The children were then divided into small groups to discuss the book.

The children received a free copy of the book to take home. Several children had it signed by the two generals and representatives from the Berlin Airlift Association.

Rodriguez said she heard about the program two or three years ago and thought it would be the best program for Texas Military Forces.

"Our children don't always see themselves as military kids," she said, and explained that whereas children of active-duty Soldiers see themselves as military kids, children of parents in the Guard and the Reserve who deploy overseas see themselves as every other kid, although that isn't quite the case.

Rodriguez noted that it took a number of volunteers and supporters to start the program. They held their first TMAS event in conjunction with the annual conference of the National Guard Association of Texas to help get the word out about the program and attract other volunteers and supporters.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Benson

**Children and parents listen to an adult volunteer read during the Tell Me A Story™ event sponsored by the Texas Military Forces State Family Program March 29.**

drops little white parachutes of chocolate and other candy to the children in the war-torn country.

Approximately 40 military children and their families listened to Brig. Gen. Joyce L. Stevens, Texas Army National Guard deputy commander for operations, read the

### NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM

## 1-888-777-7731

## www.guardfamily.org